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A Family History in Letters and Documents

Gilman

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Me Charles P. Nayes -

A Family History in Letters and Documents

1667-1837

CONCERNING THE FOREFATHERS OF
WINTHROP SARGENT GILMAN
AND HIS WIFE
ABIA SWIFT LIPPINCOTT

MRS. CHARLES P. NOYES

VOLUME I



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DEDICATION

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

As we grow older, we become more conscious that the memory of those whom we have honored fades out and that the younger generations do not and, indeed, cannot realize the value of the lives of their forefathers. It is with the hope that these letters and documents will impress on you, as they have done on others, the strong characteristics of your noble and upright ancestry, that your father and I give them to you. Most of them came from the collections of your grandfather, Winthrop Sargent Gilman, of New York, and your uncle, Arthur Gilman, of Cambridge, but there are also a number for which I am indebted to the kindness of other members of the family.

At the risk of leaving in matter that will seem to some of you to be tedious, I have transcribed them with absolute exactness, as such documents have no value if they have been tampered with, no matter how little. The only exception is a sentence which was taken out before the letter came into my hands. We wished to have the volumes of a convenient size, so I have refrained from making notes, unless they were necessary to the comprehension of the letters.

I trust that these people who are, in a very real way, a part of your personalities, will stand out as clearly to you as they have to me, while preparing this book.

YOUR MOTHER.



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A FAMILY HISTORY IN LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

Of all your emigrant ancestors on the GILMAN side, Robert Hale seems to have come to New England first and it was but thirty-four years after he landed that the earliest of our documents was written. In those days communities were very small and they lacked entirely what we would call the ordinary comforts of life, but from this collection we shall have a revelation of their simple and friendly lives bound closely together by blood relationship, by business, and by necessity. We must put aside the conception we usually have when we think of our forefathers, that of isolated families living in separated settlements, — the Gilmans in Exeter, the Robbins in Plymouth, the Hales and Ives in Beverly, for the little towns around Boston were close enough together to have a great deal of visiting back and forth, done at first, of course, in a one-horse chaise or on horseback and later in the stage. We shall find it interesting to note the gradual changes that took place and the increase of comforts, but it seems to have been the genius of this branch of the GILMAN family to be pioneers and so we find them in that rôle, first in Exeter, Beverly, Newbury, and Plymouth, then in Ohio and again in Illinois, in each place contributing largely to the common good.

In the connecting notes and the headings of letters, the ancestors of the family of Winthrop S. Gilman and his wife, Abia Swift Lippincott, are printed in capitals. It seems necessary to make some explanation of how it happens that so many different family names appear and how all these people are related.

When Councillor John Gilman of Exeter was a member, in 1693, of the committee to call a new pastor for the First Church there and decided on Rev. John Clarke of Newbury, he started the chain of circumstances from which all this correspondence arose. For Rev. John Clarke was joint guardian with his widowed mother, Mrs. Nathaniel Clarke, of his two sisters, Sarah and Elizabeth, who presumably spent part of their time with him in Exeter and so, very naturally, one of them, Sarah, four years later, married one of Councillor John Gilman's sons, who was afterwards called "Judge" Nicholas Gilman. They became the parents of one of our first letter-writers, Rev. Nicholas Gilman.

A year after this marriage, Sarah (Clarke) Gilman's mother, Mrs. Nathaniel Clarke, of Newbury, became the third wife of Rev. John Hale, of Beverly. Rev. John Hale's first wife, Rebecca Byley, came to New England when a child of three, with her parents, Henry and Re-BECCA (SWAYNE) Byley, from Salisbury, then called New Sarum, England. Rebecca (Byley) Hale died in 1683. leaving two sons, only one of whom survived, - Dr. Rob-ERT HALE, who was thirty years old when his father made this third matrimonial venture. Mrs. NATHANIEL CLARKE probably took to her new home in Beverly her three unmarried Clarke children and in 1700, ELIZABETH married her step-brother, Dr. Robert Hale, when she was sixteen and he thirty-two. The earliest letters in this volume have to do with the property that Dr. Robert Hale inherited from his grandfather, Henry Byley, of Sarum, which was managed by his mother's uncle, Bennett Swayne, of London. Dr. Robert Hale lived about eighteen years after his marriage and, dying, left ELIZABETH (Clarke) Hale a young widow with three children. Within two years she married, as his second wife, the other son of Councillor John Gilman mentioned above. who was called Col. John Gilman from his service in Queen Anne's War. She found five motherless children in his family and must have brought with her two of her own three and Col. John Gilman and she had four more. We shall hear particularly of four of this family: Elizabeth and Col. Peter, of Col. John Gilman's first marriage, Col. Robert Hale of Elizabeth Clarke's first marriage, and Samuel of the third marriage.

Col. Robert Hale was a student in Harvard when his mother married again and he taught school in Exeter in his vacations. He graduated in 1721, followed his father's example and married his step-sister, Elizabeth GILMAN, in 1723 and lived in the old house in Beverly. This will explain the close intimacy between Col. ROBERT HALE and the young men of the Gilman family of his generation. While the intermarriages go on for three more generations and become even more confusing, it will be best to leave further elucidations until later. We now return to Rev. John Hale, who was the eldest son of ROBERT HALE, the emigrant, and who was twenty-eight years old when he first began to preach in the Beverly The following extract from the First Church Church. Records, the photographic copy, which is interesting because it is in Rev. John Hale's own writing, and the letter to "Bro: Wilson" were given the Editor by the late Robert Hale Bancroft, of Beverly and Boston, Mass., who was a lineal descendant of Rev. John Hale. Mr. Bancroft could not identify "Mr. Charles Woodberry" nor tell how the second paper came into his possession, but it is undoubtedly genuine.

Rev. John Hale's acceptance of the call from the First Church of Beverly.

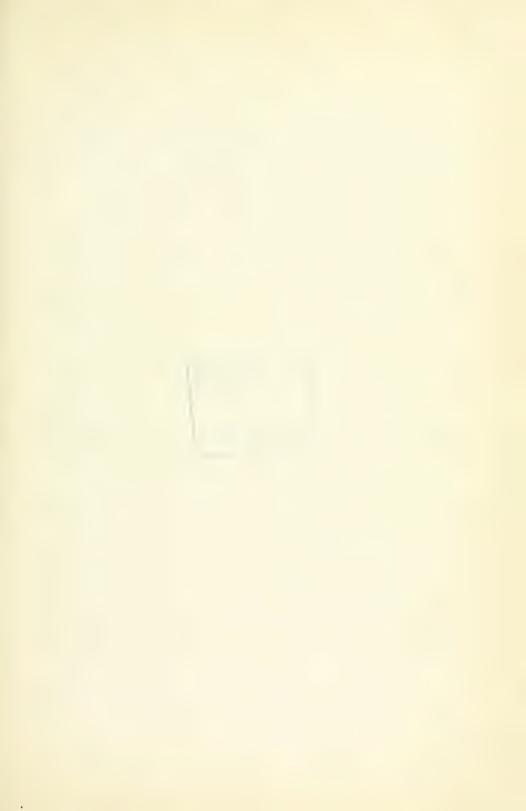
July: 21. This motion was answered the 21th of the 5 rom the Church Records.

moth 1667 as ffoll viz This wrighting being read together with the names fublitibed ther was a unanimis confent of the brethren prefent unto their defire only it was left to the facrament day after when in the fullest church affem [—] the confent of the whole church was fignified by the votes & so they gaue their liberty to be a church of themselues only they continue members hear untill there being a church the Lord graunt his gratious presence with them. vppon this the brethren had a meeting vppon the 28th of August and renewed their call to mr John hailes that hee would be pleased to accept of the office of a

paftor whofe answer was as ffol:

when I looke att the weight of the worke you call mee vnto of wch paul cried out (who is fufficient for theife things) I then looking vppon my owne manifold Infirmities & indisposition of spirrit therevato fee many discouragements: butt when I duly confidder the lords foueragnity ouer mee & all fuffucienty for my fuccor I defire wheare I fee his worke and call to fav with Efaiah heare I am fend mee; and in perticular when I observe the remarkable prouidences of god in bringing mee hither and pauing out our way hitherto and the roome the lord hath made for mee in their harts (weh I acknowledg with thankfullneffe to god & vorfelues: I doe look att the call of god in the prefent call call to mee beeing the more confirmed hearin by the concurrence of our apprehenshins, which hathe appeared in those things wee haue hadd occafion to conferr about, conferning our entringe into & proceeding ou Church affaires, which I hope the lord will enable mee to practice accordingly.

Wherefore while yow walke according to gods order of the gofpell, & in the ftedfaftneffe of the Faith in Chrift And I see that with a good Confhience and freedome of fpirritt I can carry on my worke and difchardge my duty to god and man & thofe that are vnder my care according to the refpectiue relations I may beare vnto them: foe long as the lord is calling mee to labour in this part of his vine-yard; I defire to give vpp my felfe to the lord & his feruice in the worke of the minniftery in this place: requefting yow to ftriue together with me in yor praiers to god for mee that it may redoune to his glory, yor Edifinge &



Asiale together thirty me in the gonaions to god for mer foot it may are downer to gis glower. The Estimpt e on gon Jul attoumpt in the Day of Christs a person knop my tolk to top Roach a gid territor in top bough tabour this part of Lis bringward; F- Sofrier to quip four amonding to this soffertier solations of man board with Grown: for long as top losed is talking once to of exe minm georg in lois golaris, Dogusting gree to Suta to god and man a book took and waster any By mee. From Hale

REV. JOHN HALE'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CAL TO THE BENTHLY CHURCH Photographed from the church records

of Euery foule that fhall dwell amounft vs and for our Joyfull accoumpt in the day of Chrifts appearance.

By mee: John Hale.

 $\overline{2}$

An Eminent Deliverance of Mr. Jn° Hale of Beverly & his family from Lightning.²

Febr: 19, 1688/9

His relation whereof is this. My wife, two maids & two children were by ye kitchen fire; myself with Deacon Hill in my study & hearing ye thunder smart, were going down to Comfort ye family & as we came to ye head of ye Staires (D. Hill part down) we were both struck wth Lightning in our right Armes & right Legs, yet neither of us heard ye thunder or saw ye Lightning; He was less strook, & sooner got down staires; I was struck down upon my knees, by ye post we used to lay hands on, as we goe up & down staires & unable to stirr for some time; but heard som of my family crying out of hurt below; at last I got down, my foot as it were dead, & leg full of paine, but wth help got to lie down on a bed; my elbow

1 In a book of this kind which attempts to show the changes that gradually have come in a family's life, the antiquated spelling and long "s" appeared interesting to the editor and they have been carefully reproduced. There is, however, another point of view which was expressed by Mr. Clarence S. Bingham, secretary of the American Antiquarian Society, from whose opinion the editor hesitates to differ. Mr. Bingham writes: "The method of reproducing early documents has been changed considerably in recent years. The American Historical Association, this Society and nearly all of the leading societies today have given up the exact reproducing of the old-fashioned 's' and the early form of 'ye.' The letter 's' was not a matter at any time of lack of education, but was simply the earlier method of both writing and printing that letter. . . In the same way, when earlier writers wrote 'ye' they intended to write 'the.' The 'y' was not a 'y' at all, but was the old Anglo-Saxon thorn represented by the letters 'th.' '' This explanation of Mr. Bingham's will be interesting when examining the facsimile of Rev. John Hale's letter of acceptance, where the 'th' appears in an early form. As the long 's' was used by the editor when a girl when writing "Miss" and "Messrs," the gradual passing of the fashion seemed worth indicating.

² From manuscript of Mr. Charles Woodberry.

seemed out of joynt, & Arm hung down like a stick; wth m^{ch} paine in it, but my fingers seemed dead: I have a bruise on my face, but suppose it might be wth my fall. In less yn hour I found life in all my limbs, & that no bone was broken or joynt, unless some small starting out of a bone in my wrist (praised be ye Lord) I find ye post I was by, shivered on 3 sides. But to come to ye Rest; ye Lightning came down ve chimney, brake out some bricks just above ye mantle tree; Hurt my wife and English maid on their heads, & ye negro on her right Arm, yet all pretty well againe (thro' mercy) it bowed out two paines of glass in ye kitchen, but brake out no glass & on ye other side of ye house beat out ye bottom of a paile, and touched severall pewter platters: on ve top of ve kitchen Chimney it brake out 20 bricks: and on ye other side of ye roof made an hole about 8 foot long & then beat out yo North end of ye kitchen about 8 foot long & 3 foot wide, & tore out many other boards at ve end. Without doors it killed me a cow, and in ve stable one Lamb we the Lord accepted of instead of our lives. How unsearchable are his ways & paths past finding out &c. I find no mark on my body but a blue spot on my heele a 1 of an inch long & 1 so wide & somewhat sore & one spot on ye sole of my foote but not sore.

Taken out of his own Letter sent to his Bro: Wilson in Charlestowne.

3

Dr. Robert Hale to Bennett Swayne, Sr., London, England.¹

Ipfwich Novemb. 25, 1691

Ever Honoured

I know not whether any Hiftr'y fro mee ever arriv'd att y' hands however am loth to loofse ye Opportunity of making this second prefent of my humble Service to y' Self & y' Confort & account my Self So far Happy y' nature has Given me a right to call you' Selves Unkle & Aunt ye' hope Shall not be unmindfull of my proper diftance but know y' A greate obfequioufnefs & nothing lesse

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

than Duty is owing from me to ye Brother & Sifter of my Grandmother—& Sr Shou'd be Glad of an Opportunity to manifest my Self dutefull towards you. Sr If you would so far condifcend as to fignifie to y' Son M' Bennett Swayn y^t Its y^r Defire y^t Diftance of Place Should not vacate y^e Nearnefse & Confanguinity y^t yere is Between himfelf & mee (Pardon S' my Great boldnefse) I Should account myfelf Greatly honoured to be taken notice of by him & farther I would not leff earneftly or humbly request yr prayers to God yt If I Should be fo Unfortunate as to be a Stranger to ye person of the most of those who are of ye Family of ye Swaynes yet I may be no Stranger to y' Religion. That y' faith wch Dwelt In my Grandmothers predecessors & Kindred may Likewife dwell In mee. My honoured Grandmother is a very Sorrowfull woman having lately heard ve Doleful tidings of my Unkle Hall's Death. God Grant her Aged hairs go not to ve Grave In Sorrow, my father is with his family In health, the Troubles & Miferies of New-England are Such as require a larg Hiftory Ipfwich Is Still preferved But has as most other Towns in this Colony Lost many of yr most warlike men by War & Sickness Sr you cannot well Imagine ye Danger to be Great than it is weh Confideration will I doubt not move you to be Earnest with him who is ye Savir of Israell In time of Trouble In behalf of all Gods people here Especially for v^r Aged Sift & I hubby beg y prayers & Bleffing for y Unworthy R. Hale Nephew

4

Dr. Robert Hale's grandmother, originally Rebecca (Swayne) Byley, but at the date of this letter the wife of her fourth husband, Dep. Governor Samuel Symonds, and about eighty years old, married for her second husband Mr. John Hall, of Salisbury, Mass., and had one son, John Hall, born January 18, 1641-2, who became a wealthy goldsmith of London, England. At his death in 1691, he bequeathed to Dr. Robert Hale, his step-nephew, "my five volumes of Poole's Synopsis Criticorum, Ainsworth's Annotations and Mellificium Theologicum." At

that time Dr. Robert was studying divinity, but he afterwards became a physician. Mr. John Hall left a large property to his widow and to his only child, Elizabeth.

Dr. Robert Hale to Mrs. John Hall, London, England.1

Ipswich June 17th 1692

Honoured Aunt

My Grandmother Showed me a Lett wherein you Inform that a Legacy was bequeathed mee by my Deceafed Unkle whofe worthy & precious memory I Shall ever retain & Should have done without the having Such a memorandum of him. Madam I account my self bereaved of a fonde & kind Unkle a bountifull mecenas & patron of Learning by his Death & can as heartily & truly mourn as any, Wth those who mourn for him; alas! had I thought I Should So Soon been deprived of So great & good a freind; affection & Interest Should have broke those bonds of ballfulnels which So oft tied my hand from writing to him: but I see my Unkles goodness was Such as that he has cancelled all that difpleafure He conceived for my neglect on that account. God knows I ever bare a gratefull heart & the thanks I returned him for his kindness to mee during his life were ever unfeigned & for that demonstration of his good will & affection to mee alas my thanks can no more be given him but to y'Self Good Lady I return my hearty thanks: I take good notice of my Unkles defign in his Gifts to me. viz: to promote Learning & ye beft of Sciences Divinity weh Shall be an Incitation to mee to perfue those Studies; the present Danger of the Seas is Such as that I Shall defer to Send for the books: my Grandmother thrô ye mercy of God enjoyes a good health, confidering her years & greifs: Madam pray prefent my Service & Respects to Mr Rogers & my Coufen on whom In justice ve Relative affection I bare my unkle (that Relation ceafing Muft defcend & I hope v^t Shall never happen that any Eftrangemt Shall bee In mee to ye Daughter of So munificent an Unkle to one So near related. I Shall no further trouble you att prefent but pray that those Gracious promises contriv'd

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

on purpose for ye Consolation of the Widdow may be confirmed to you that the Joy & Hapiness of my Cousens may enduring & Increasing that ye covenant & promises compacted with ye faithfull may be ratified with their hopefull Branch, my Loving Cousen So prayes Madam yr obliged

Nephew Robert Hale

5

Dr. Robert Hale to Bennett Swayne, Jr., London, England.¹

Ipfwich Novemb: 25 1692

Worthy Sr

the near Relation between My Grandmother & v^r Self obliges & the Information Same Gives me of v^r Worth & Goodnes Emboldens & make mee defirous of farther Knowledg of y^r Self wch Since It cannot be obtained in ye way wch I should mostly defire by reason of ye Great Diftance between Europe & America I have adventured a few lines wth tendr of Service to yr Self. Sr If you would Pleafe to hon with a line from y hand If but only in ye nature of y^t yo^r Receipt of this & also of ye health & Welfare of y' honoured father & mother & y' own I Should be greatly obliged & be ready to wait on you by writing or to Serve you in any thing I am capable of My Grandmother has already written to you She enjoyes comfortable health thru' Gods mercy but is full of Sorrow for her Great lofs her Son & hee being dead & her Stay wth him; In Respect of wt Support She had by her Income In England her necessities are like perhaps to be Great If that fail her (tho but a Small matter) y her freinds can readily Imagine. I need not say If you will please to engage care in [illegible] that Affair you will have a Widdows & Aunts Bleffing the Fears & Dangers Troubles of New-England are Great, you are Sr perhaps of itt Informed from bettr hands Let yt raife yr hands in Supplication for Gods People here & for mee [illegible] So Subscribe my Self in ye Bond of love & [illegible] yr Coufen Robert Hale

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

6

Dr. Robert Hale to Rev. John Hale, Beverly, Mass.1

Prefton, 22d 11th 1693

Ever Honoured

Father—I am glad to hear of v own health of my freinds you would know whither I intend to continue here at prefton wch I cannot Resolve but yt its my defire & prayer that I may Somewhere be ufefull but whither I can Long hold itt I know not I find myfelf born to trouble y' if one be Remitted itt pleafeth God Some other is Renewed by wch my health is, much Impaired yt I can bare very little study or other bufinefs & diversities I have none. ye Lord help mee Seeing ye vanity & vexation attending all things I may make Sure of more Durable Comforts & grant mee joy & powe In Himfelf I find myfelf heir to my mothers Diftempers would to God I might of her Graces I fear whether ve foundation I build on be Sure itts not all performances & [illegible) unles God has wrought a reall chang & Implanted a principle of true holiness vt will avail in ye fear of this but Especially to my Sorrow Some other troubles weh work Death make mee Go up & down in ve bitternefs of my Soul, ve Lord help mee y' I may Endure Temptation & with patience may bare ye crofs I may rather be willing to lofe life yn ye End of Living if I must choose only of these two, but I dare not complain I am too apt to murmur & to forgett y' I ought to bear ye Indignation of ye Lord & y' I am punished far less & to say with holy sillegible the God deftroy me yet I am Sure he deferves my thanks: yea hee has not wholly Shut out my prayer nor difregarded my tears but I will not write this to trouble you but to Xcite you to pray Still for mee. I Received a Lettr from my Grandmothr who writes among other things vt she has not seen you since I was with her. My Unkle Dodg I cant now write to him pleafe Remembr mee to him I could give you many Sufficient Reafons why I have not vet procurd for y' Self or him any skins but I will Employ Some fact for him heer If I can & Get you Some ye first opportunity I wish much Joy to ye new

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

married Give my love to y^m & [illegible] Love & Refpects to oth^r my freinds viz Deacon Hill [illegible] Grover Richards & others of y^m I thank you for y^r pains about my Concerns tho att prefent I have little Concern about itt but would further propose y^t M^r Swain be wrot unto to Get a Testimony from his father y^t he by order Delivered y^e feoffment to M^r Halls Custody. I have not a pretty while seen M^r Noyce¹ yey are visited wth a very mortall fev^r att Stonington wch they know not well w^t to make of my Unkles family were last week all in health but some did Shew weekly Generally lusty young persons wee are as yet free In Preston from itt thro Gods Goodness y^e Lord fitt us for all ye issues of providence wch Concern us. My Duty to y^rSelf Loving Mother love to my little brother

I Remain [illegible] ing y^e Continuance of y^r prayers y^r Unworthy Son R Hale

I have Since writing hereof procured a couple of Skins one buck & a fawn Skin. they are not yet Smoakt wch may be done by Laying y^m up in y^r Chimney a Sufficient diftance from y^e fire. If yey Sute not y^r furr Let Unkle Dodg have y^m & I will ere long procure you two doe Skins

7

 $D^{\rm r}$ Robert Hale to $M^{\rm r}$ Lane, Mr. Franklyn and Mr. Bond, London, England.²

 $\left. \begin{array}{c} \text{To } M^{r} \text{ Lane} \\ M^{r} \text{ Franklyn} \\ \& \\ Mr. \text{ Bond} \end{array} \right\} \text{of London}$

Boston May 25th 1698

Gentlemen

I confes its a boldness in mee to draw Such trouble on y^rselves as to be attorneys for one I suppose you never saw or heard of M^r Jos. Mirion adviz'd & Encourag'd mee soe to do. I hope itt will please God to continue M^r Swain of Charterhouse yard in Aldersgate East Lon^d then

¹ Probably Rev. James Noves, brother of Rev. John Hale's second wife. See Noves-Gilman Ancestry, 18.

² MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

whom no mā can better & more Satisfactorily manage my affairs for mee but all men are mortall & I having no othr perfon to Undertake ve Care of itt think itt uncertain & unfafe which depends on any ones Life. I Intreat y'lelves In case Mr. S Should faill forthwith to Ent' upon & take care of ye Eftate belonging to mee — which Estate whatt & where itt is & of my title Mr Mirion will Inform you I hope, but leaft he forgett pleafe from mee to know—Tis an house with Some lefser buildings termed Small Tenements with a Tanyard Gardens & 2 orchards, ye Buildings are in Castle Street in N Sarū & ye other mentioned appurtenances in ye same place except one orchard is I think not in ye Street but over ye River Avon - opposite ye other - ye Title I have is - yt in ye year 1638 - or thereabouts a Certain Deed of feoffment was made to Henry & Rebeckah Biley (both then there Dwelling) & to their Heirs, ve said Couple had Children Henry (who Decd Unmarried) & Rebeckah afterwards married to M^r Joh Hale of Beverly in N. Engl.—which woman is Deceafed leaving no other Child behind her than myself - an Authentick Coppy of ye feoffmt is now in Mr Swains hand, as also divers affidavitts & Testimonials which prove my Title ve Orig in ve hands of ye Executrix of J Hall of Islington [illegible] pretended to be loft. & Gentlemen I pray you keep ye Letter of Attorney by you & If need Require accept ye Trouble & you shall be Satisfyed & you will oblige y' Servant

Robert Hale

8

Dr. Robert Hale to Bennett Swayne, London, England.

Beverly May 28, 1698

Honoured Sir

I hope you have or will Speedily Receive by M^r Whittingham my Letter in answer to yo's of June—97—In which I wrote for divers Medicines (if itt be not to much trouble to you) to be sent or else to send what effects are of mine in y^r hands. In black Sattin floured & plain of each alike quantity to be put into a Russia leath^r Trunk &

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

to be left for mee wth Mr Edward Deering Mercht In Boston—& also desire you would send att least in Generall what value my Eftate att Sarum is of what itt Anually Rents for & what ye Incomes & difburfements of itt for some years last pay's have been & ye names of ye Tenants. & alfo v advice whether I were not best sell itt which my Freinds advize mee too—& I have defired M^r Joseph Mirian by ye bearer hereof (a man Imployed by many here about Eftates In England) to discourse wth v^rself about itt & to know whether y felf would Incline to buy itt or if not when in his Travells he passes thrô Salifbury to make Some Enquiry there & would pray y' direction of him how he Shall most readily come to some knowledg whatt & where itt is. & pleafe to Lett him have a Sight of ye feofmt & of ye writings of. not yt I have or Intend to Empower him (Unless y'felf were disposed to purchase) mine wth you Releasing to my title to itt, to sell itt. I have not desired him to Go on purpose to ye place but to take itt in his way which I suppose he will expect some Requitall for & I must perhaps order him to y felf for hereafter for his Stay in England is I underftand Like to be above one if not two years—I pray S^r you would Still Continue y' care for mee. wee are thro' mercy in Good Health in this Family my fath has written alfo to you by ye Same Conveyance. Coz Dr Phelps Is Shipt for Guinea - wee expect a viffitt from him before he Goes—ye Generall peace Cloncuded in Europe has not wholly Finisht or Warrs—or bad Indian Neighbrs have done Spoil upon us more then once Since that. I add no more att present but with my best Respects & Service to y' self & y' Good Lady —

I remain v^r Humble Serv^t

Robert Hale

² This refers to the slave-trade on the Guinea coast. Dr. ROBERT HALE was not more scrupulous than his contemporaries about the treatment given the Indians and the Negroes by the New Englanders of his time.

9

Dr Robert Hale to Bennett Swayne, Jr., London, England.¹

July Bofton ye 5th 1699

Worthy Sr

Understanding by v Last to mee that there could be nothing for ve prefent done farther about my affairs att Sarum as to ve Sale of itt &e & that you would take ye utmost care thereabout has made mee ve more Remis in Writing to y'Self not willing to give you any trouble that was needlefs so have writt to you only one Short Script (Since ye Receiving of ye Trunk of Medicines) pr Mr Joseph Mirion & perhapps may be accounted for Remifs which I Shall Endeav ye amendment of I thank you S' for ye care in what was Laft Sent pr Cpt Prennot & ye care in all other Respects relating to my affairs. Intreat ye Continuance of ye Same & that you would pleafe to Send me word now Whether itt be more fealsable to make Sale of itt my freinds here Still advize mee to itt & whereas v'Self writes that doubtlefs iff Such a thing be attempted M^r Byley will put mee to a New Trouble but Sir if you think itt probable that Sometime hereafter I may do itt without any molestation for my part I am affraid itt may be as bad then as now yea would be worfe if providence Should So order that I may not have So Good a freind there to act for mee as now I hope I have. but Sr I pray let mee Understand what yr advice may farther bee in that matter & please to Inform mee what you are Reimburfed of ye Rents that were behind & have become due Since you wrott, my father & freinds here are thro Divine Goodness in Good health as I am also. S' I Should be glad if in any thing I could Serve you which I would to my Utmoft. I Intreat yt Sr you prefent my Duty to y' honoured ffather if yet Living & with my Service to v^r Self & Good Lady I Remain v^r

> obliged Kinfman & humble Serv^t Robert Hale

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

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It is evident from the preceding letters that there had been trouble in taking care of the Byley property through Bennett Swayne and his son. The next letter is to a member of the large and prosperous family of Dr. ROBERT HALE'S step-uncle, John Hall. The Byley, Hall and Swayne wills in "Waters' Genealogical Gleanings" give interesting details about their property in London and elsewhere.

Dr. Robert Hale to — Hall, London, England.¹

Bofton July ye 6th 1699

Ever Honoured Sir

I cannot but account myself bound in Duty to send thefe few lines to y'self confidering ye Relation you bare to her who was while living my Grandmother and not only is my Affection to you Collaterall but have a Veneration for that Virtue & piety that have been Informed Refide in y^rself as by y^e Report of Such as know you & by ve many Excellent & Pious Epiftles Sent to my Grandmother in former & Later years which have mySelf Seen & Still keep by mee tis not to Ingratiate myself to procure any Earthly benefitt from y' Self that I so much write thô In those Respects you have Done that Even Long before I was born that may prove a benefitt I hope to mee. I mean In taking upon you ye trouble of being feoffee to yt Small Eftate att Sarū wch care I Shall not Request ye continuance of Leaft I Should seem to forgett v^r Great Age & how Unreasonably troublesome I Should bee in Such a Request. but Sir I hūbly Request y prayers & blefsing that hee thatt has been y' God & ye God of my Grandmother may Vouchsafe to be mine alsoe & may beftow ye Same Covenant Blefsings upon mee that he has on y'Selves Amen. My father is thro Mercy in Good health has married his third wife Is I hope Succeffull in his Ministry many being frequently added to ye Church over which ye Holy Ghoft has made him Overfeer for my own part bodily weakness has made mee Leave that best

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

of Employ^{mts} & to betake myfelf to y' Study & Practice of Phifick—a Grandfon of M' Batts is y' ordained minifter of y' Numerous Cheh of Newberry I Suppose you have heard that M' Harlackenden Symonds Died near two years ago. thro Divine Mercy Wee have enjoy freedom from war with y' barbarous Salvages S' I Request y' pardon If by these Lines I have been too troublesome & Remain y' Dutifull Nephew Robert Hale

11

Dr. Robert Hale to Bennett Swayne, Jr., London, England.¹

Beverly September ye 2d 1702

Honoured Sir

I wrott twice to y' Self Since ye Receipt of y' last of Apr 1701 & in those Letters I signified my Compliance wth y proffer of 100 b for my interest at Sarum praying you would farther confider mee if you could fee Reafon for it you having Seen & therefore knowing what it is worth but I Shall not farther urge that Confideration but leave it with you: & if you Send over ye Dedimus you mentioned will do what is proper on my part for confirmation of ye bargain at ye price you proposed - but Expect you will be at all ve Charg of writings or what Elfe is needfull for confirmation of y' Title will be payable in England as what muft bee difburfed here on that accompt. I defire ve answer as Soon as may bee [illegible] & So divers of those other things by my last layd before you as whither if need bee you will into ve bargain Inveft ve 100th for mee as I fhall order.. & that Seeing ve Rent of ye living will be due to mee till ye Day y' ye mony is payd to my Order at wch Date perhapps many pounds or monthes Rent may be due which you have not then actually Received what you will allow att adventture pr month or pr anum to mee for Such arrears & deliver it at ve Same time for I would Gladly have but one work & Likewife what you will allow for old arrears of which I find by y' Letters many pounds are behind as 30 b you Said from one man & So divers parcells from others web

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

thô Desperate Debts yet perhaps you may one time or other come att a part of. Let mee know y' mind about thefe particulars as to ye propofall of trade I made you Seeing ve warrs are now broke out I Shall not Reiterate by yr laft accts find that I then Remained 7th-11-21/2 all which being Received Sept. 99 & you having at writeing v^r Laft Received but 6^{1b} more Since but before this wch is now near 3 years from Sept 99 hope you have confiderable. whatever it be more or lefs pray Inveft it for mee in Good bolts of Hollands Duck Canvas of wch Shall have need & Direct y' letter & goods to be left wth M' Jonathan Pollard Mercht in Boston for conveyance to mee - ye length of time Since yrs I last Received above mentioned makes mee miftrust whether any be Intercepted Therefore I would pray y' if you have Sent but one letter Since yt & See Reafon to Suspect you would inclose ye Letter in one to Mr Pollard afores for conveyance were it not for ye prefent distance I am at from Boston (where y^e Small pox is now very frequent & mortall) I would prefent you with a Small book of my fathers 1 [illegible lately printed at Bofton but hope Shall have [illegible] opportunity for it can only prefent with this my Service to y' Self & your Good Lady & Respects to y' Son (of whom I never heard but by Mr. Nath Higginson who was with you ye Laft Sumer) I am y humble Servant Robert Hale

12

Dr. Robert Hale to Thomas Blattsoe.2

Bofton January 13th 1703

Mr Blattfoe Sir

Upon ye Small Acquaintance I have had with y'felf I Draw y' trouble of a Little bufiness upon you. the affair thô Small yet of great moment to one of So Small an Estate as I am therefore trusting in y' fidellity & Requesting y' best care in ye matter proceed to Inform you that I have Sent a Small Box of writings by y' frigatt Cpt Horn Comander ye box Directed by writing on each Side

¹ Rev. John Hale died May 15, 1700.

² MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

to v^rfelf or Afsignees which Box you may pleafe to Open & you will there find a writing Sealed up & Directed to Cpt Wm Holborton or in cafe he arrive not to yorself which Seal is to be broke up by no man but Cpt Holborton Unlei's he fail of Arrival & if So then by y'felf other writings you wil See are a Conveyance of Eftate from me to Mr Bennet Swain who is a Mercht Dwelling in Charterhouse vard near Aldersgate London—But when I Sold or by Letter promifed to Sell him ye Said El'tate for 100th twas with this Proviso that ye Rents also of it Should come to mee till Such time as he had paid ve mony to me or my Order. So that you must by no meanes Let Mr Swain have ve writings nor Holborton go before my Lord Cheif Juftice to give Affidavit till Such time as you have Reckoned with Mr Swain & he has Given me creddit & promife or note Under his hand to pay to my Order what Rent is Due untill ye Day y' you So accomptable him ve Accompt is as followeth from Under his own hand viz Dr Robert Hale Dr

To Druggs Sent by Cap ^t Bolftin Aug ^t 30	
1700 £	17—18—6
	1, 10 0
To Taxes allowed Smith for one year	
1700	-0116
To Holland Duck pr ye Ruth ffrigat July	
	99 10 10
20 1702	33—10—10
Access to the second se	
	52-15-04
Dr. Contro Or	02 10 01
Pr Contra Cr	
Sent him on Accompt Dec 30 1699 y ⁿ Due	
	$10-07-3\frac{1}{2}$
	10 01 072
By Jn° Smith for 1 year Due 29 Sep ^t .	
1700	12— —
By Norleigh	02— —
Der Dorr	
By Day	03-02-03
By Smith in full to 20th Sept. 1701	10-00-41/2
By Afhly in full to Sept. 29 1701	02 — —
Dy Lilling in I am to Kop : 20 I to I	O 44
_	00 00 11
	390911
To Ball £	13-05-02
	20 00 02
gapter.	
	52—15— 1

Now Sir please to mind that my Bargain & promise by

Letter to him was to Sell him my Eftate in Sarū for 100 1b but yt ye Rents Should be mine till Such time as he had payd ye 1001b to my Order for all the as is necessary for form Sake I have on ye end of Deeds Endorfed a Receipt of ye 100 as you See yet it is not paid mee already but he has Sent me his Note which I herewith Enclose to pay mee ye 10016 Sterling as you will See but Did not write So particularly as I defired but only in Generall that what arrears he could he would Get in as Soon as possible by which I suppose he means as I do but am not certain for there are old arrears Due for many yeares before this Accompt for which you will also ask him - So that in Sum the Bufiness is this for y'felf to Go to M' Swain & acquaint him that I have Sent ve writings Executed & that he Deliver you ye 100^d pound & w^t old Arrears he has Received and also all Rents Due till that Day and for Such part of y' latter as he has not yet Received that he pay after ye Rate of about 13 or 14lb pr Annu or thereabouts which I think is Generally ye Annuall Income clear of charg I Suppose you will find that he has Received ve most part till Sept 1703 & for half a year more viz till March 29 1704 you may compound wth him for Lefs Something then ye about ye Lay of 14 pounds per haf yrs for 12 lbs p^r annum for he being Diftant from Salifbury Does not Review ye Rents Sometimes in a year after vev become Due — because I would have it all Invested at once & have no farther trouble about ye Rent after I have Sold ye principle—but If Mr Swain Shall Say yt not having vet Received - he will Deliver no more than what is in handes of Rent with ve 100¹⁶ & by noat under hand to you for me Engage paymt of all Rents & Arrears till March 29th 1704 that Shall Satisfie & you may deliver him ye Box of writings yt he may Get Cpt Holborton & other Affidavitts taken as is needful—now by ye Acct you See of July 30 1702 there Remained to Ballance Due to him 131b 5-2 Only you must note v^t for ye year begginning Sep^t 29th 1701 & End Sept 29 1702 he had Received nothing of my Tenants So that that years Rent was More than Enough to Answer the 13th 5-2 besides Some old Arrears perhapps by this in part Received—So that from Sept 29 1702 till March 1704 makes compleat one year & halfs Rent Due to me besides ye Over ballance (yi over it may

be) of ye 13 lbs by foregoing years Rent & old arrears which year & halfs Rent will amount to above twenty poundes, all charges of Reparations & Taxes Clear Confiderable having been allowed but a few years fince to put ve belt part viz Smiths which is Let at 12 lb p An in Repair So as that M' Swain wrot me word that would need no more Repair of Divers years & befides Smiths ye Tenants Norleigh Day & Afhly are Set at about 7 lbs pr Anu taken all together and what Ever monys are Delivered you for mee pleafe to Expend & Inveft as I Shall Direct by Instructions I Shall Send you by this fleet if possible, but if thro Shortness of time I Should miss this Opportunity pray keep it till I can Send to you. If M^r Swain Shall Refuse to Comply about ye Rents Let not Capt Holborton nor any Go to Give yr Affidavits about them nor Let Mr Swain have them Up for I never intended any bargain with him but with yt provifo about ye Rent it being very Unreafonable I Should let him have So good a bargain & he have ye Rent before Such time as I have ye 100^{lbs} Delivered to my order, notwithftanding that ve writings of Sale bare Date much Antecedent— No I wil Sooner pay Mr Swain all the Charg that he was at about procuring the writings & comifsion there & Loofe my own here than Do So. Sir what Ever Charg you are at you must charg with y' comission mony if you Receive & Inveft for mee but If Mr Swain do not Comply I will find a way to Satisfie you to content. Excuse ye prolixity & bad writing which ye Sharp weather my hurry by Reafon of Streights of time & other Inconveniences Occasions So being in hast to Get my box of writings & this on board of Cpt Horn Just Going of must leave ve Reft I have to Send to you till Some more leifure & will conclude with Service to y' Self & Good Lady from vr Servt Robert Hale

You will Remember I am ye man ye Rode wth yelelf from Bofton to N Briftol upon Mr Lees leaving that place—If you have Occasion to write to me Direct Letters to Robert

Hale in Beverly

near Salem in Ne England

Memorandum

Upon farther Confideration I have Sent back Mr

Swains & tel him I dont accept it because nothing of Rent is Sayd in it—but Offer him a Note of ye following Tone I promise to pay to Mr Thomas Blattso for Accompt & behoof of Dr Robert Hale upon Demand ye Sum of 100 pd Sterling & all ye Rents & profitts belonging to H & R. B in N. Sarum whc have arisen & accrued Since ye 29th of Sept 1702. if he Sign this Note & Offer & oblige himself according to ye tone hereof

13

These English letters seem to be copies retained by Dr. Hale. Written on the margin of this one are these words: "For ye Substance a Coppy." Just before the postscript Dr. Hale wrote "word for word in postscript to Mr. Swain."

Dr. Robert Hale to Bennett Swayne, Sr., London, England.¹

Kind S^r Beverly March y^e 5. 1703-4

The fleet meeting with a Stop & not being yet Gone have ye Opportunity farther hereby to Acquaint you that I have finished ye matter of the writings & put ym on board ve Centurion one of her Majesties Ships for which probable Safe Conveyance I waited a confiderable while one & ye cheif Reafon I Sent no Sooner I have wrot two Letters to you of January ye 13th Laft when ye fleet Expected every hour to Sayle by which I have Defired you to pay ye 100 16 to Mr Blattfoe a mercht in London was then in an hurry of business & omitted ye formality of Bills of xchang but have now Enclosed two to him of which if neither Should arrive yet Let my Order In ye Letter be taken by you as Sufficient. I had not Drawn bills but that I perceive ye Gentleman you Employ is Unacquainted with w' is proper for this Country as appears by ve Unfuitable Sort of Canvas Sent mee inftead of Good Hollands Duck I wrott for to my very Great Damage & Difapointment. I Should have been Glad to have Saved yor Comission which I Expected provided you had ordered ve Invefting ve monies for mee. One

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

thing I have written more which is to defire you to pay wt Ever is in vr handes of Old Arrears — & alfo all you have Received of Rent Since the Laft Acc' Sent me Referving to y' Self thereout thirteen poundes five & two pence due to Ballances & altho you may not have Received all ye Rent to ye Day of ye payment of Mr Blattlo y' is due yet you will when you have ye writeings Delivered you have ye Eftate wholly in y handes & can Eafily compute what it comes too & Draw ve mony again of ve Tenants at a Convenient time. I defire not to have farther bufiness about it but to finish all at once. you have So good a bargain as you may w' out Damage do this. I have been proffered Confiderable more than you Give but if you Do thus as I defire you Mr Blattfoe is Ordered to finish with you & to deliver ye writeings & I wish you prosperity in ve bargain. you know I alway provided 3 thinges in bargaining ye first of which of Investing ve mony (weh was a motive to me ve Rather to bargain) comission free sailes me wen is a Damage to me, ye other two viz ve being at all cost of winterings & Sending with ye principle all Rents Due till ve Day of Demand I hope you will not fail me in I had rather then you Should So do Let all fall about ye bargain & pay for ye writings myfelf but I need not ad but wifhing yrfelf & yrs all profperity For time & happiness to Eternity I remain v^r humble Serv^t at Comand Robert Havle

If you are not free to answer my bill in all ye particulars of it I shall be willing now yt ye Dangers of ye Seas r So great to loofe all my last about ye writeings here & to pay you ye charg for them & So let ye bargain b Released & So I hope yt will be no Damage Done I pray I may hear from you as Soon may be I hope you will not be troubled that I Employ another about laying out my monies. ye Difference of yt being layd out by one yt Does not Understand N Eng Cargo & yt Understands it well as Mr Blatsoe does having been divers years a Shopkeeper in ye Country Is I See very great, no difrespect or mistrust of yrself but a necessity compells me thus to

do-

14

NICHOLAS GILMAN was only fifteen when he wrote this

gossiping letter to his parents. We could wish he had been more explicit as to "the price with a witness!" that he paid for his room and board and that, just when he descends to gossip, the letter had not been torn. He graduated from Harvard at seventeen, taught school at Stratham, entered the ministry later and preached his first sermon at Kingston, N. H., in 1727.

Nicholas Gilman to Judge and Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Newbury, Mass.

Cambridge Janry 23- AD 1723-4

Ever Honoured Parents—

Pardon my neglect in not writing to you oftner. I improve Every Opportunity, and make, and make use of this to write to you, Presuming my Letter will not be unacceptable to you, since I cannot but be sensible of the Desire you have of hearing from me, not only from your commanding me to write, but also from my own observation of the care & Tendernels you Express towards me, and the Desire you have for my Good, I desire to Exprefs my most hearty Gratitude to you, which is all I can do in requital, only by & thro' the blefsing of God on my studies, and the continuation of my life & health, I hope to make so good proficiency in Learning both humane & Divine, as to be in some measure Qualified to answer your Expectations concerning me. I suspect & not without Grounds the End you proposd in bestowing a Liberall Education upon me, & am sensible how prejudicial the Lofs of Time will be to me, now I have such an Opportunity to advance in Learning and Knowledge, which If I improve not the Lofs will be my own, & I should ungratefully Difsapoint you Expectations and hopes for my Good, which I desire I may never Do. I have not altered my habitation but reside at my Old Place yet, not so much out of Love to the Diet, as the profit I am sensible I get by hearing the Disputes and Enjoying the Conversation of those who Live here, and Others who constantly Dine here, (which by the way give as much as we that Live here) I am apt to think nay pretty certain I cannot change my habitation for the better on the account of Leaving being out of the way of Noise and too much company, which are very Prejudicial to study, & in the way of hearing the Discourfes and Disputes of my Seniors, which may be and I apprehend are very instructive. And altho we give a price With a witnefs! at the bare naming of which any reasonable person would cry out upon their Extortion, Yet considering all things, that 'tis but a Little while that I have to tarry here (for I hope If alive and well some way or other to be with you in March) I say considering this and that the others give as much as I Do, I make not much noife, as not thinking it very convenient so to Do. I have not much News to Tell you, but thro' God's mercy I am in pretty good health while Others are Languishing on beds of sickness, and some swept away by the stroke of Death which walks its round with a resistlefs Sway: Two Scholars have Died Since I came Down this Last Time Spear & Treat the Last of which was a Sophomore who Died Yesterday was a seven night the 15th instant, it is not youth and vigour will free us from The Stroke of Death, and while I now write thefe Lines my Ears are Entertained with the mournfull Sound of the bell Tolling for the Funeral of an Inhabitant of this Town. — The Common Talk here is the choofing calling & ordination of Ministers: Mr Gee was ordaind the 18 of Last month at the Old north church in Bofton; Mr Abot will be Ordaind at Charlestown Next Wednesday come [torn]

I have been bargaining with one whom I spoke of to you for [torn] & am to give him three pound twelve Shill* for them [torn] I had Like to forget & shoud have done unlefs I had heard [torn]ame (Spoken below but now, is that he is married to a Young [torn] town tho he Got her not without some Difficulty, for after he was [torn] A young man belonging to this Town who had courted her & whom [torn]ty, she was promisd to, underwritt him; then they went to Law [torn] Tried before Two Justices—Pierce (for so was ye young man [torn] she had promisd him The cafe was Given in on Monnis's Side [torn] her—he Drives a Mighty Stroke at trading for he Keeps Shop in [torn] very well Likd by



Exeter dine Aliragion

Dear Mally) have Speed this receing pleasertly at your Lowerth Tatters (Twick out of the miretor fout the I sports of I ans week Jear or eature you may real sand trace ut letter un your I's only colly Pared with what I might erlow in your sind? company hower on's all Time former my to the will be my to the my to the month of The For Thous heard a Thurson athogra did not design to Felunchen till some time next fall to disapountments which I made with and countrol well aword are so many that have no reason to create my saly and that easings where a cap make no well easy but a must need a confetiti the pleasure to me that you like perforged the time of your stay bould · less yourse well employed but to you night be at home treasestions? first swinest of moiner Westerned Ingenity of songer that I have The Agine grant Jam in the state of my sub hordo cieve the discovery of my of potions with pily and bandensels, but dont blame me if I must weed boy I can't well discorn it by the prefert posture of affairs, Fribly you may hink it smanket strange of that in all this time of your absence I have never been to lear you or at least that I should be so negligent winting to somen the People.—So Remembring my Love [torn]ters, My Service to Sir Clark & all who Afk after me I take my [torn] for the Length of My Letter this being all at Present from Your Dutifull son—

Nicholas Gilman

15

Rev. Nicholas Gilman to Mary Thing, Boston, Mass. 1

Nº 2

Exeter, June 12th 1729.

Dear Molly I have Spent this evening pleasantly at your Honoured Father's (I wish I coud call him mine, too) but the I speak of Pleasure dear creature, you may well think I take but little, in your Absence coMpared with what I might enjoy in your sweet company however I aM willing to make myself as easy, and my life as pleasant as ever I can: For I have heard a Rumour as tho' you did not design to Return home till some time next fall. the disappointments which I meet with and cannot well avoid are so many that I have no reason to create myself any Uneasine's where I can make myself easy, but I must needs confess tis No pleasure to me that you have prolonged the time of your Stay—doubtlefs you re well employed but So you might be at home Dearest Loveliest Fairest of women that Sweet Ingenuity of Temper that I have observed in you gave [torn] hope that you might receive the discovery of my affections with pity and tenderness, but dont blame me if I must Needs say I can't well discern it by the prefent posture of affairs; Possibly you may think it somewhat strange that in all this time of your absence I have never been to see you or at least that I should be so negligent in writing as to the Former my Dear, I conceive it needs no great matter of Excuse you may assure yourself iT is not for want of love. I suppose there has not a day passd in your absence but I have thought of you how often has your Lovely picture Rolld over in my mind, how oft have I

¹ MS. loaned by William C. Gilman, Norwich, Conn. Written backward.

desird your Sweet conversation your company of all women!!!

sweet Molly is most desirable to me, but Suppose I should come to Boston, how much of it could I enjoy there just enough to Set me a longing perhaps, For I can hardly think you would wholly refuse to See me, what would be an hour or an Evening to one that hopes to call you his own as to my not writing oftener I am ready to blame my self and were I afsured you would give your self the trouble of reading my letters thro and not laugh at me I shoud think myself faulty that I write No oftener. Dear Molly if Boston hasn't taken away that sweet temper of yours I doubt not but you will excuse My Negligence. Lovely Fair one Things dont work according to my mind I was in hopes of Enjoying your Sweet company here in a Short Season, but Since I cant bring my circumstances to my defires I must confine my defires within what I can attain. There are young women in town pretty enough when I dont think of you, but Molly that's the sweetest name, the prettyest Thing fairest of Creatures, the Object of Mine affections; and coud you love as I do If we liv I shoud not think it would be long to our wedding day but when we shall be united in Marriage how long it is to be or whether ever it will be is known to him who by his providence overrules all events, it is of the chief Importance, & should be the greatest concern of our Souls to be at peace with him, Sweet Molly I hope you will mind the Best things and live now as you would wish to have lived when on a dving pillow for tho you are the Woman whom I admire above all others yet I am sensible and would have you realize it that you are Mortal as well as I. I cannot I know you don't defire I should flatter you with the name of Angel. The I hope to enjoy you for a season yet we are not to look upon this as our Abiding place but improve our days on earth in making Ready for that happy State, where there is no marrying nor giving in marriage. The I complain of the length of time in your absence yet I am Sensible how Swiftly our years Role away I am apt to think they might pals with greater content on my Side were I well settled with your Sweet Self My lovely fair & I entreat you not to defer the time too long where is the Benefit of delaying Molly I dont See as it helps you or me whereas by yielding & consenting you might not difoblige your Self, and Might greatly Oblige your True & constant lover N:G

16

Dr. Robert and Elizabeth (Clarke) Hale had three children; Rebecca, named for his grandmother and mother, who married in 1719 Rev. John Chipman, the pastor of the church in North Beverly; Robert, whose marriage with his step-sister, Elizabeth Gilman, we have noticed earlier; and Henry, who, ten years younger than his brother, was his ward. Henry married in 1735, Anna Ober of Beverly, and died before 1740. His five letters were written during his last years at Harvard, where he graduated in 1731. As they are docketed by Col. Robert, we are able to arrange them in exact sequence.

Henry Hale to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.1

Cambridge January 4th 1730 [1730-1]

Dear Bror

You very often have remark'd that Nothing But want can Extort a Letter from me Your Observation is Grounded on Experience And so far Just. But the true Reason to Me Seems to be the want of any thing to Communicate we will be Grateful to you I have No Opportunities to gain any knowledge in the Secrets Of Trade or business or the Practice of Physick And as to the Mathematicks & Philosophy & ye Like You Have Other things to think off However there is one thing an advertise^{mt} Of we will Not Afford Very Unpleasant Reflections Y Classmate Mr Greenwood Has In A Late Lecture Hit upon a New Notion Relating to the Excentricity of the Orbits of Planets He supposes that Att first they describ'd Perfect Circles but by an Unequal Ballance of their Attractive & Projective Forces they were by Degrees Drawn Into Ellipses, we Still Grow more Excentrick Till att Last They will All become Comets & further that by the

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

Affiltance of Accurate Observa¹⁸ the Ratio of this Increase of Excentricity may be Determin'd & Consequ¹⁹ the Time when by a Near Transit by the Sun they will Catch on fire & Put a Period to the Lives Of their Inhabitants (Verte) Of this Says He Ovid Might Have Some Notion from Some Now Loft Tradition of y^e Ancient Philosophers Which Occasion'd his

E/se quoq; In fatis Reminiscitur Affore Tempus

Quo mare, Quo Tellus &c.

S^r I wifh You All felicity & Remain
Y^r Loving Bro^r & Obedient
but unworthy Ward
H Hale

17

Henry Hale to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.1

Cambridge Feb. 16, 1730 [1730-1]

Dear Sir// Let this Inform you that I Got Safe to Camb: about 8 that Night with lefs Difficulty Than I Expected the Next morning came On att 11 the Sermon to the Negro by M^r Appleton from those words—What fruit Had ve In those things Of we've are Now ashamed As Soon as Mr Appleton address'd him He Lamented bitterly But perhaps rather because of his Punishment than any thing Else for he was Extremely Ignorant. condemnation Mr Adams went to him in Prison & Asking Him if He Shoud Pray & for what He Answer'd that Mafter no angry cause I burn his house - Att Another Time—Pray for X^t was his Answer, there was a vaft Confluence of People att the Execution we happed about 4 in the Afternoon Mr Emerson Pray'd wth him Earneftly Under the Gallows & then being demanded w' He had to Say He answer'd Wantee Countrymen no do so & so He was turn'd off but being half dead before Hung but about 10 min. His body was Carried to the Colledge barn & remain'd till the Next when it was difsected by Dr Boylfton Att the Request of Mr Danforth Prince & Others They Only Open'd the 2 Lower Ventes & Shew'd a few of the Largeft Membranes Muscles nerves tendons & Veins

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

&c for Arteries I think the Doctor coud find None "Certainly"—The Difsector did not Enter Upon the Niceties of Anatomy for the Operation was finish'd in One Day—None of the Controverted were Examined Nay the Structure Of the bones was not laid Open but the Negro Committed to the grave with An Haste we Many Regretted—

I am Sir Y^r Unworthy Bro: & Ward

H Hale

18

Henry Hale to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass. 1

Camb: March 10, 1830-1

Dear Bror

I Waited att Bofton almost 3 Days But the foul Weather I Suppose Prevented you Pardon My Importunity Since the Valedictory is to Be Next Week & the Gift Given Up Please Sir to Send About 3£ 10 Mr Johnson is in Haste & I can but Just testifie that I am yr Loving Brother & Unworthy Ward H. Hale

19

Rev. Nicholas Gilman married Mary Thing, only child of Bartholomew and Sarah (Little, Kent) Thing, of Exeter, N. H., on October 22, 1730.

Rev. Nicholas Gilman to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.²

Exeter March 20. 1730-31.

Dear Sir

I am just inform'd of an Opportunity to Send a line to Beverly. but whether to You I cannot Say Not having heard for a long time whether you are in New England or indeed in the Land of the Living or No. I have written to You before Now, Since I have heard from You. What it was that I wrote or have done or what that I have Omitted to write or do that has occasiond Your long Silence. I Shoud be glad to know. Dear Sir that you

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

² Idem.

are a Man of Reason I may Say without Flattery—and Since So, I would willingly—know Why you would put a period to our wonted familiar Converse. So long as we are fellow Sojourners on this Terrestrial Globe and may we not hope fellow Travellers to a Celestial State—If I have proved treacherous, tell me of it and You will Soon Learn whether ever to trust me again — If I dont write So well as I usd to do when you were free for a Correspondence by Letters, You must blame your own Silence for how Can it be Supposd I Shoud write So well Now as when I oftner read Your lines? but whether I write well or ill I must at this time write but few Words More. The Week & Day both hasten to a Close and Titans fiery Steeds are just ready to plunge in the Western Ocean— The Twilight hastning gives us warning to begin The Sacred Weekly Rest of Christians an earnest of the future Rest that remains for the people of God, Among which happy joyfull Number that You & I with our Wives &c, May be found is I hope the sincere Desire of

Your Loving Kinsman NG
My wife gives her Service to You and Your Dear
Consort.

20

Henry Hale to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.1

Camb. March 23, 1730-1

Dear Bro:

Y' not coming or sending oblig'd me In Order to Pay my Subscription & pronounce ye Valedictory to borrow about 3£10: Whereof 40 s/ for a Gift 12/ for a pr of Shoes 5/ for the New Drefsing of my Hat 5/ for a pr of Gloves more in Expence &c we Sd Sum If you cou'd Oblige me with I Hope I Shouldn't Shew my self Ungrateful—I am Very Sorry Sr that I Shou'd now give occasion for the Old Complaint Namely that I make ye Importunity of ye Dun Thruft out the Tendernefs & Duty of A Bro: & Ward Henry Hale

Pr Herrick

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

21

Henry Hale to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.1

April 2d 1731.

Dear Bro^r I thankfully Rec^d Y^r Letter & Supply P^r Herrick & Likewise the grateful News of v^r Health & prosperity I am sorry I Have Never yet Done Any thing to Deserve yt Kindness as A friend we the bonds Of blood & Nature conftrain you to Show me that I might in a Strict Sense Call you a Bro & friend too However I Hope that In Time an Endeavour to Imitate y' & My Godlike father will beget in me as Great a likeness to you as to Temper of Mind as I Have already by the frame Conftitution and Shape of my body & then I can't fail of yr Love I Can Sir Write You but Very Little News tho Very Acceptable there is One of the Political States or Journals Lately Arriv'd Extracts from w^c Have Contrary to his Excellys Order printed & Dispers'd they Inveigh Vehemently Against the Govrs Arbitrary proceedings & Commend ye Noble Stand we we Have made for yt Liberty & Property w^c Others Have Unhappily Given up He very Plainly pretends to prognofticate the Gradual Approaches of Slavery we Like a Palsie seizes the Extreme Parts first afterwards tottering & att length Ruining the whole fabrick that God may Avert this is the Wifh

Of Sr Yr Loving Bror & Ward

H. Hale

22

Rev. Nicholas Gilman to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.²

Dear Friend

I Presume by this time you are So well acquainted with my writing that it is in Vain to make any Apology for Defects and Pretend I write in hast, which tho It be matter of fact may not be the only reason why I dont write Well. If If writing Letters were as great an Exercise of

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

² Idem.

the Body as it is of the Mind I Shoud much more gladly Embrace every Opportunity of writing to you but Since it is not So I am Obligd to be more remifs in thought and it is not very agreeable to Send abroad Crude Notions Pictures of Chaos which Ovid Describes to be — Rudis indigestaq, Moles Nec quiequam Nifsi pondus Indis &c—but what Need I describe it when the present writing is So near a Resemblance as for matters of Speculation I have Not at present Leisure to Mention any Thing. Your Friends in Town are Generally in Health Except Your Hond Father, Collⁿ Gilman who This Day Labours Under Considerable Indisposition—As for Me I am pretty Much as I usd to be If you know how that is - I hope however I am Somthing Stronger—I am glad to hear you have escaped from Imminent danger of the Smallpox — It Seems that Sickness if Not Death had you Close at the Heels Breathd on your Shoulders but was not Sufferd to Lay Violent Hands on You & Now you have gaind ground on him. So that you have left him out of Sight—but however out of Sight Not out of Mind—Deaths pace is Swift its Stroke the Silent, Sure and None Escape but Sooner or later they fall its prey— Happy they that Can on good grounds Say to him Welcome Friend. But I must Close—with telling that y' Hond Mother Defires You would Get Henry Such Cloaths for Commencement as that You Judge Suitable for him. And if he has the Offer that You Would Advise him from Her to keep School att Newberry New Town—She Remembers her love to You all. Take this at present in Hast—From Him who hopes for a Better Opertunity to Express how Much

I am Y^r Sincere Friend N. G.

Exeter June 3^d
1731—

23

Rev. James Hale, the writer of the following letter, was a son of Rev. John Hale and his second wife, Sarah Noyes, daughter of Rev. James and Sarah (Brown) Noyes, one of the first settlers of Newbury, Mass.

Rev. James Hale to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass. 1

Afhford October ye 11th 1731

 S^{r}

I give my hearty Love to your Self by these hoping they will find you in Good Health as I am at this Time thro' the Mercy of God. It is indeed now Some time Since I returned from your parts and have not written to you but befides that I prefently found my bufiness Doubled here by my Absence from home Some Weeks it was not very long before I hurt my right Hand So that I could not for some time write or do any other matter with it So well as before. It Seems almost too late to give you a Journal of my Safe Return that Week I left Beverley and finding my Family Well and perhaps it may not be much worth the while to mention that Since v^t the Ministers of this County were most of them at my House at the Afsociation Meeting begun on the laft of August as this Week we are to meet at Mr Williams's of Manffield. Our Crops have been the English Grain with confiderable plenty the Indian Corn tho' Better than our fears upon a Supply of Rains after a Time of Drought Yet as so Some greatly Shortned. Our Hay and Latter Feed in a Comfortable manner. We enjoy a General Health at prefent in this place and better than was Some while ago in this place and in Windham Village a Neighbouring place where I hope it is better now too. My minifterial Work has been very Great Since my Return requiring much care and application. My remembrance of the great Respect & kindness of my Beverley Relations and Friends to me & So of others to me in my Journey has a firm abiding in my mind. And pleafe to Remember me kindly as to ve Revnd Mr Chippman & Mrs Chippman 2 & to Mr Henry Hale and to Mrs Hale your Confort my dear Relations So to Madam Blowers And to the Reverend Mr Champney whom I efteem as dear Friends and many others among you in Beverley I efteem my Good Friends whom I could willingly be remembered to by you

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

² Mrs. John Chipman was Rebecca Hale, only sister of Col. ROBERT HALE. Her husband was the pastor of the church at North Beverly.

as in Particular Deacon Dodge and Captⁿ Thorndike. I hope you will write to me at y^r first Opportunity. Desiring an Interest in your Prayers I Remain Your Affectionate Uncle

James Hale

24

Rev. Nicholas Gilman and Mary Thing were married October 22, 1730. He did not take a parish for some years on account of poor health. Col. Robert Hale's first wife, Elizabeth Gilman, who was Rev. Nicholas Gilman's first cousin, died in 1736 and he married (2) December 21, 1737, Elizabeth Clarke, daughter of Hon. John Clarke, of Boston, whom this letter mentions. It was copied some time in the early part of the last century by Elizabeth T. Davey and given to Mr. Arthur Gilman, of Cambridge, by C. S. D. The original was in the possession of Col. Nathaniel Gilman, of Exeter.

Rev. Nicholas Gilman to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Exeter, Feby 13th, 1737-8

Dear Sir

Yours of Jany 25th came to hand this Morning which has given me No Small Satisfaction, 'tis a Token you have not forgotten there was (at least) once such an one as I am: As much as I may have been tho't to have courted Retirement I must own 'tis agreable to have My Friends take notice of me—I suppose it extreamly difficult for any one with patience to hear being slighted by those we have a Value for, especially if we have been once in their Favour, or have so much as Courted it. Your Kind Letter is also an occasion of the further pleasure I receive in Answering it, which I must confess would be greater might I be so happy as to write anything worth your Regard. Sir, I impute it not as any fault in you that you have so long neglected writing, but accept it as a Favour that you have written at Length. I thank you for the Account you have given me of the age that many of the Ancient Poets, philosophers and Heroes of both Greece and Rome arrivd to before they were called to quit this Earthly Stage. You observe of them that they were for the most part famous while yet in the flower of their days; Mayn't this together with the Age they attained to give us reason to think that, together with an Exalted Genius they were Blest with an Athletick constitution, So that they Underwent without Fatigue the contemplations and Intense Study, that might Weary & even wear out the Tender constitution of many of their Contemporary's, by that Time they arrived at the Noon of Life, & probably in those Ages of the World, when the press was wanting, men more rarely produced their Works to Publick View till age & Experience had ripened their Judgment & their Reputation for Wit or Wisdom was well established.—So that the Works of few are

Left but such as were Men of Long Life.

Men indeed that are formed by Nature for a Longer Duration in this World Seem to have much the Advantage of Tender Constitutions for deep penetration & great Atchievements—their Spirits are not so Volatile, nor do they undergo So frequent Changes but can Undertake & pursue an Attempt to what length they please in much the same Temper.—Many a Great Soul possessed with bright and Super powers capable of making extraordinary flights, has been much depressed & kept from Rising by a near Alliance to a Crazy Carcase. — I am but little acquainted with the History of Sir Isaac Newton, who has obtained with most the Epithet of Incomparable. I shoud be glad to know more of him—but if I mistake not he attained to a great age, I think upward of four Score—I dont Suppose his Spirits were Exhausted or his Joints afflicted with Scorbutick pains by that time he had Sat an hour or two Swallowed up in thought. Heaven (it seems) had every way formed him to Shine in these Ages as a Star of the first Magnitude. He has indeed carried the Matter So far that very few have Mathematicks enough to Understand his Demonstrations, yet the most accurate Mathematicians allow them to be Such and rely on his Conclusions, as propositions well proved— He has Shown how far Mathematicks applyed to some parts of Nature, may upon principles that Matter of Fact

Justify, carry us in to to the knowledge of Some particular provinces of the Universe. - I doubt not but that great Man found (the further he went) a Larger field of Knowledge Still opening to his View — and 'tis not impossible but he might have a glimpse of many things the fuller discovery whereof may be referred for future Ages. It seems we cannot tell what discoveries are to be made to the Sons of Men 'eer the Winding up of the present Scene. -- but men of Tender Constitutions Seem to have little reason to flatter themselves they Shall be likely to penetrate so far as they might do were they formed by Nature to Attain the Longevity of the Ancients whom you mention-I Think for a very tender Man Watts the Poet Laureat of the Christian Church has done as worthily as any man I know of. — His pen has produced many pieces very excellent in Their Kind. You Sir have Some of His Works I believe by you & I flatter myself you think with me in what I have Said of him. — I make no doubt he will be allowed a Great Man by men of Discerning. It seems to have been happy in exercising himself much in that Wherein his Genius Most excells & that is the way for Men to Shine - There is a beautiful variety in the powers of Men which conspire in the Mutual afsistance of one another in the Various Concerns of Life-without doubt it concerns every one within his own Sphere to act his part well in as much as the present life well improved is an Introduction to true Living - and as you well observe We have little reason to Complain of the Shortness of Life unless we were careful to Improve the flying Moments to Better Advantage.— As to what you hint at concerning Heroick actions it doubtlefs becomes Superior Souls to efsay at Noble & generous things. — I hope by the Success you have Sometimes found you will be encouraged to essays for the Good of Mankind which (at least) Your Own Country & the present, if not future Generations will think themselves indebted to you for -- Believe it will be so and never fear - Nemo Magnus Sine Aliquo Afflatu Divino Unquam fuit Saith Cicero De N D. There is much remains to be done towards bettering the State of our Land - Many designs which Our Patriots would do well to Signallize themselves in carrying an End.

I find I am running this Letter to an unreasonable Length and Shall hasten to a Close reserving Something for next time.—As for late occurrences I have little to mention,—'Tis (I think) a time of General Health among us. Some few have Lately been visited with a fever.—John Kimballs Wife dy'd Last Lords day Aet. 35.—Brother D. G. has had a sharp fit of Sickness but is (I hope) Recovering.—The Rev. Mr. Secomb of Kingston is Labouring to Introduce among his people the singing of Mr. Watts's Psalms. - Now Sir (if you please) Give my Service to my New Kinswoman, the present Dear Delight of your Eyes, whom I have never yet had the happiness to see—With her I wish you Abundance of Comfort and that you may rejoice together as Heirs of the Grace of Life and be late Called to a Separation —

My Pen E'e'n tires yet must not fail to join—I am as much your Friend as you are mine—On other Scores I freely own that you May claim Superiority.—Adieu.

N Gilman.

R. Hale Esq

25

This little book is made of sheets sewed together as was often the case in those days when paper was expensive. The first page was written in a childish hand. Some notes of sermons are omitted.

Bartholomew Gilman his book and hand exeter Decem^r 16

1741

an acount of the holy lives and triumphant Deaths of some

let us then hear how mr holland a memorable saint and rarely qualified preacher exprest himself when in the

¹ Daniel Gilman, 1702-1780, was the "Uncle Dan"" in later letters from Joseph Gilman. In his will, he gave the use of his "Silver Tankard" to "the church of Chrift in Exeter whereof the Revd Daniel Rogers is paftor." Hon. Nicholas Gilman, of whom we shall hear much, was Daniel Gilman's grandson.

valley of the Shadow of death as one was reading to him the eight chapter of pauls epistle to the romans on the sudden he said "oh stay your reading what brightnets "I see have you lit up any candles to which answer was "made no it is the sunshine nay says he my saviour "shines now farewell world welcome heaven the day "star from on high hath visitd my heart O Speak it "when I Am gone preach it at my funerall god dealeth "familiary men

[The following is in Rev. Nicholas Gilman's writing.] N. B. This was written the Morning before he was taken

Sick of his Last Sickness.

Bartholomew Gilman, Son of Nicholas and Mary Gilman of Exeter was born August, 26th 1731. — And died Dec^r 23^d 1741. Aged 10, years 3 Months & 27 Days— From his Infancy He was remarkably, Serious, a Dutifull obedient Child, of a Pleasant disposition. He delighted but little in thee Toys & Trifles So natural to Children of his Age—His Book was much his Delight, in which He profited for the Time above Most of his Companions; towards the Close of his Life before he was taken Sick He became very intent on the Things of God and Religion, And before his Death did hopefully Experience a Regenerating Change—His Sickness which was the Throat Distemper lasted a Week, in Which tho' at times He breathd with Difficulty yet He discoverd Admirable Patience and great Willingness to dv & go to Christ—He gave his Companions that came to his Bedfide, Solemn Advice discoverd a Weanedness from this World and readiness to leave it. Loyd to have praying and reading in the Bible & pitchd upon certain Chapters which he chose to hear Read over and instead of being tird with hearing was Concernd lest he Shoud weary Others in reading to Him; He was taken Sick Deer 16th lay Sick a Week and then (I trust) fell afleep in Jesus.—

After his Decease were found of his writing the following Letters and other writings which are here preferved—
4. A Letter to his Cousin Dnl L-l of Haverhill

Dear affectionate Cousin let us Join together to blefs God for what Marvellous work he is now doing at the Bank Let us pray to God that his Word may run and have free course, and May it be glorify'd, that many Souls may be newborn to Christ, O let us pray that All Nations may be gatherd unto that great Shepherd & Bishop of Souls, the Lord Jesus Christ; let us pray that we may be truly and Sincerely humble, for all our Sins, and let us pray to God against all pride & haughtine's of Spirit for God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the Humble—And I would have you pray for all the Mercies you Stand in Need of for Time and Eternity I Just run over a few lines, I had but a little time I would have you Send me a Letter or come and See me your Self—The Folks are all pretty well and healthy—

I remember My Love to all my Friends—

This was the first letter that was written by Me— Bartholomew Gilman

5. a Letter to his Parents at Durham—Exeter Dec^{*} 10. 1741.

Honoured Father and Mother, after my Most Humble duty to you and Love to all My Brothers, I take Now to write to you for My Latin & English Esop Fables, And if you please, Mr Watts Psalms And—I hear that God carrys on his Work Very Powerfully there, which We have reason to blefs God for—and by what I can learn, it is very dull times here,—I run over a few lines. I hope to see you in a little time.

M^r Elisha Odlin buryd his Youngest Son last night with the throat Diftemper

Your Dutifull Son Bartholomew Gilman.

26

Rev. Nicholas Gilman was not ordained until 1742, when he went to the church at Durham, N. H. This is not an extraordinary way of "settling Salary," as in Stone's *History of Beverly*, p. 210, Rev. John Hale's agreement with his church is substantially the same.

Settling Salary on Rev^d N G at Durham Pork 500th of hogs That weig 150 or 200 pounds or upward. That is well fatted

Beaf 600 lb Candles 30 lb at Wheat 10 Bushels Winter Rye 15 Bufhels Indian Corn 30 Bushels Molafses 20 Gallons

Sugar half an hundred Such as May Now be had by The 100 at 7-10-0 P hundred

Malt for Bear for a year 10. Bushels

Cycler Ten Barrels.

Rum Gallons or wine

apples Such as are good for winter 20 Bushels

Turnops 5 Bushels & 3 of Petatoes

Pastoring & wintering 4 Cows & an horfe & keeping an horfe fhod Thro' The year The Pastoring To be good & handy and The wintering To be upon good English hay & keeping summer & winter Strangers horfes.

wood 40 Cord If I fhould Need fo Much for firewood To be halled To my Door in 4 foot length all To be Brought To my house one year after another without My being Put to any Trouble or Charge for The procuring or pur-

chasing of ym

& an hundred & Ten pounds P year for This first year & Then The additions of Ten pounds p year for 4 year & yn 150 £ P year To be Paid in passable Bills of Credit in This Province & in Cafe Said Bills Should be Still farther depretiated So That The Same number of Pounds in The Name of y^m Should Not be in value Sufficient to purchafe The Same Sort and as Much of Every Sort of Cloathing or any other necessaries for The Support of my family as They will do in This Prefent year Receiving Goods at So Much p cent as They were Sold in Bosfor paper Bills by The Merchants at The Time when This Call was made Me by Durham. Then There Shall be an addition of as many More pounds as Shall Make The money part of My Salary Sufficient in value To purchase The same & as many of any & every Sort of Thing That I shall want in my family Besides The provision part of my family as an 150 pounds would purchafe at ye time aforefd & in cafe Sd paper Bills Should become more valuable Then z much as They shall be More valuable for The purchasing what I want So much lefs yn an 150 Shall The Money Part of My Salary be So

yt My Meaning is That The Money part of my Salary Shall be of as Much value To me for The purchafing what I want for my family every year as It was when Durham gave me a call To the Ministry & of No more value Regarding the value of Money for the purchafing Necessaries & Not the Name of so many pounds

& The Provisions & Money To be paid at or before The time Specified in The fall or If The Town fail hereof & their failure prove a Damage To me They Shall make good The Damage I shall suftain by Their Neglect.

& In Cafe paper Bills Should entirely ceafe Then whatever Should be a Medium of Trade. My Meaning is ythe Town Should pay Me in That Medium as Much z Shall be in value Equal To an hundred & fifty pounds anno 1739 when Durham Gave me a Call To The work of the Ministry i e So much of That Medium as Shall enable Me To purchafe as Much Cloathing or as Maney of Those Things as are necessary & convenient for the Support of my family as an 150£ would have Enabled Me to purchase Anno 1739.

& In Case it Should So happen That There Should be any dispute Concerning our agreement That Each party Shall leave it To 3 Neighbouring Ministers & Three of his Majesties Justices of the peace in The Next Neighborhood To determine the Intent & true meaning of our agreement.

27

Richard Woodbury was a fanatic who gained great power over Rev. Nicholas Gilman after the visit of George Whitefield to New England. A number of ministers objected to the religious excitement that followed this visit. William C. Gilman, of Norwich, Conn., owns the diary of Nicholas Gilman during the last years of his life and it is a distressing record of the growing mental unbalance of a gentle but naturally melancholy nature. Rev. Mr. Gilman died in 1748. Rev. Mr. Webster remained as pastor of this church for many years after this letter.

Richard Woodbury and Rev. Nicholas Gilman to Rev. Mr. Webster, Salisbury, Mass.

In the Name of the King of Kings & Lord of Lords— To the Rev^d M^r Webster, Pastor of a Church of Christ in Salisbury — Rev^d Sir — Consider the weight and greatnefs of your Charge in that you have Precious Souls committed to your care, which you are to educate & train up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord, Think what account you have to give when You and others must give account of Your Stewardship and how you have improve the Talents committed to your Trust—Consider whether you are in the way of your Duty, while you do not come forth to vindicate and promote the good Work of God that has been going on in the Land So remarkably, Since the Time Dear Mr Whitefield was Sent thro the Land,— Him God has honour'd and will honour tho' many have despised him, and if they repent Not it will be to their Confusion —

(Read Eccl. 11.9—& Eccl. 10.1. & 12. 1,13. & 11.5.)

If you cou'd but understand What a great Charge, Yours is—'twould be enough to make you tremble to think how dolefull it will be, and how Awfull your account, if you are guilty of the Blood of Souls perishing thro' your Neglect. Read Ezek. 33d & 34th Chap.—Now, Sir, if you would approve Your Self a Faithfull Soldier of Your Lord and King, Gird on Your Armour, come

forth and vindicate the Lords Quarrell. —

(Mark. Eccl. 12. 7,14.—) If you have not experienced a Work of Grace in Your Own Soul, you are not capable of duly instructing others in the Way of Life and happinels—the work that has been going on in the Land, I know to be a good work of the Grace of God, by many Years experience of it in My own Soul which has of late been greatly reviv'd and Blefsed be God My Heart is daily refreshd with the Love of Christ, which Love Constrains me to write thus to you—

Rich^d Woodbury (Seal)

— Newbury — May 27, 1744 —

Rev^d Sir —

I doubt not, you have heard many in those days rejoycing in a Sence of the Love of God Shed abroad in their

hearts by the Holy Ghost, given unto them, (as Rom. 5.5.) You have doubtlefs also read & heard the great cry of Enthusiasm that has been raised to prejudice the Polite and Speculative part of Mankind—I have read Much of this Sort, but find it is a Theme More talkd of than Understood—Jn° 14.17. 1 Cor. 2.13, 14, 15.—

There is a Vail over the good work of the present day, which is not to be removed but by — Asking Jesus Alone—& where this Vail is thick—by Solemn Fasting and prayer. Mat. 13.9—to 17—which in Love I recommend

to You—and am Your Friend & Servt in Xt

Nich^o Gilman

28

The date of this letter is so manifestly a mistake that I venture to place it where it seems to belong. Col. Robert Hale was given the command of the Fifth Massachusetts in the expedition against Louisburg planned by Governor Shirley, and Benjamin Ives received his commission as captain on February 12, 1745. This Benjamin Ives was the son of Captain Benjamin Ives and Ann Derby of Salem and had married Colonel Hale's only child, Elizabeth, October 12, 1743. They had one child at this time, a son, Robert Hale Ives.

Benjamin Ives to Col. Robert Hale.

Beverly Feby 3. 1745-6

Hond Sr

When I came to Charleston Ferry on Friday last I met a Letter from my Father to do some bufiness for him at Cambridge, so that I could not get Home 'till Satterday & lost ye opportunity of sending y' Horse, but have now sent Her P M' Ellingwood, wth y' Baggs & a Shirt,—

We are all well here, Mother is here at my House & verry cheerly; I hope you won't make all y' Und' Officer's

'till vou come Home, I am Y' Dutifull Son

Benª Ives Jun^r

29

The Nicholas Gilman referred to in this letter was a Mrs. Robert Hale.

son of Col. John Gilman and his second wife, Mrs. Robert Hale, Sr. He was thus a half-brother of both Col. Robert Hale and Col. Peter Gilman. Col. John Gilman had died about 1742 and his widow was living at this time with her step-son, Col. Peter Gilman, in the old Gilman Garrison House, in Exeter. We note that Col. Robert Hale was a practising physician.

Col. Peter Gilman to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Exeter March 13th 1745.

Dear Broth^r

after Cordial Salutation; These may Inform you of the State of bro. Nicho he Remaind much as he was who you Left him, for abt 8 or 10 days Every thing Seem'd to work well & he Seemd most of the Time much more Comfortable as to his bodyly disorder yn he had been for Sum Time before, but Sinc that he has been Takein with Something of apurging for Several days the not violent but has much weekned him; the night before Last his Cough Seem dry & he was put to much difficulty to Rafe & So Remains: yesterday he had as bad or worfe day yn Since his Confinem Something more Comfortable this day. but — Exceeding weak. & he is very defirous If you Think you can help him; If possible to Come & See him once more; but if there is no possibility of your Comeing. to write w' you think may be proper to be done further for him; by the next post Mother is well; prefents her Love to you & defire youd Send her Some Conferve of Red Rofes; proper Regards to all frinds I am D' S' Your Sincere Frind & Broth P Gilman

P. S. Plefe if you write direct your Lter to be Left at Swets at hamtonfalls, where I will fend over In order to

Receive It.

30

John Payne to Col. Robert Hale, Louisburg, Cape Breton.

Sir,

I hope this will find you at Louisbourg with a Bowl of

Punch a Pipe and a P—k of C—ds in your hand and whatever else you desire (I had forgot to mention a

Pretty French Madammoselle)

We are very Impatiently expecting to hear from you Your Friend Luke has lost feveral Beever Hatts already concerning the Expedition he is so very Zealous about it that he has turn'd Poor Boutier out of his House for Saying he believ'd you would not Take the Place — Damn his Blood Says Luke let him be an Englishman or a French Man and not pretend to be an Englishman when he is a Frenchman in his Heart.

If Drinking to your Success would Take Cape Breton you must be in Posession of it now for it's a standing Toast I think ye least thing you Military Gent can do is to find us some arrack when you take ye Place to Celebrate your Victory and not to force us to do it in Rum Punch or Lukes' bad wine or Sou'r Cyder—But a Word

to v^e Wise is Sufficient—

I can't write you any News so have Inclos'd you the

Prints to amuse you at your Leizure Hours—

I hope my next will acquaint you that I had a Lucky Gentⁿ to chuse my Tickets in which case I have a Bowl of the best Egg at your Service and will be your Partner at whisk as long as you please without crying to go to Bed upon your Return—

I should be glad to receive a Line from you when you

have opportunity which would be very acceptable to

Sr Yr Humble Servt

John Payne

Since my Writing the above We have rec^d the good News of your arrival at Canso and hope the next acc^t will be from Lewisburg if the Martineco Fleet dont pay you a Visit

J. P.

Boston April 24, 1745. Robert Hale Esq^r

Service to all Friends

31

Samuel Gilman was the second son of Col. John Gilman and his second wife, Mrs. Robert Hale, Sr., and so he was Col. Hale's half-brother. He called himself

"junior" probably because there were other Samuels in the older generation.

Samuel Gilman, Jr., to Col. Robert Hale, Louisburg, Cape Breton.

Dear Bro

Ive but Just time to Let you Know, - something of our curcumftances—our Dear & Hon'd mother is well. & is Longing, & waiting to hear from you. — Bro Nicho & his wife are still under Very Poor curcumstances, other friends are Gener's well as I hope thr'o the Goodness of a mercifull God thif will find you. It was a Great Grief to me y' I had no oppertunity to see you before you went on this Expedition: But my Dear Bro this I had no oppertunity of seeing you, nor of hearing Particularly from vou, vet my hearts Defier & Prayer to God is vt you may Preferv'd th'o In ye middst of danger & Dear Bro may I not say to you as was once said to a Great Genar BE Valuent For the Lord: for I trust it is his cause v^t you are Ingag'd in, therefore dr Bro Look to him for y' Wildome, y' is Profitable to direct in this Important affair, - ware you here you wou'd think y' all Gods People ware engag'd wh you, & can't but think this a good omen for I believe the Hand of faith is Lifted up Up on y' acct. & we hope that then Isrell will Pravil in an Espefiel manner—

as to Publick News you will no doubt be Inform'd fro

those better Qualified to wright

Iv'e Nothing to add (it being near 12: at Night) but y' I am y' Loving (th'o Very unworthy) Bro

Sam¹ Gilman Jun¹:

P. S. Pray Remember me to my d-r Kinf^m m^r Ives we should be much Rejoyc'd to have a Letter fr^o you Exeter Aprill y^o 29th 1745—

To
Col^o Robert Hale
Esq^e
in y^e Expedition
against Cape Breton
thefe

The American Antiquarian Society owns a manuscript diary of Col. Robert Hale which has to do with this period of his life and would be of great interest to his descendants, but it is too voluminous to be incorporated in these volumes. A number of quotations from it are given in Weedon's Social and Economic History of New England.

The Robert Gilman whom Col. Peter Gilman recommends to the care of Col. Robert Hale was a son of Col. John Gilman and his first wife, Elizabeth Coffin and so was a step-brother of Col. Hale's. He was surgeon in the Louisburg Expedition and was wounded in the campaign. "Dr. Mr. Moody" was the Rev. Samuel Moody of York, "who went as chaplain and so confident was he of success that he took with him a hatchet to cut the images in the Catholic churches."

Col. Peter Gilman to Col. Robert Hale, Louisburg, Cape Breton.

Dear Broth^r

Thefe few Lines Come to Inform you that your Exeter frinds & Ralations are Generly well, hopeing thefe may find you So our Dr mother Sends her kind Love to you & wants much To Know how you Do & Expects You" Send her a leter by the first oppertunity I Hope Dr Sr that the Great God who I Trust has inclined you to Ingage In this Great affair for the Deffence of our Cuntry Will Inable you at all Times to Put your Trust in him & Give you a Refignd frame of mind to all the Dealings of his wife Providence Towards You & Prepare you By his Specil Love & favor for all Events of his Providence and Tho the archers may Shoot Sore at you I hope the Lord will Caufe Your Bow to abide in Strength and that your Arms may be made Strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob. Dr Sr how It may Plefe the Lord to Deal with us In regard to our haveing an oppertunity of See

¹ Coffin's History Newbury, 215.

one another hear I Can't Tell But hope we shall be Prepared for the Second Comeing of our Dr Redeemer and to meet & Dwell with him together In his Kingdom above: where we Shall never more hear the Clam of War, or Garmants Rold In Blod. I Beg—Dr Brother that you will have an Eye over Bro Robert & Councill & Direct him in that that may be Best for him If he Stands in need at any Time for any Thing that may be for his Comfortable Subfistance. If it may be in your power to Suply him I will Satisfie you to Content Plefe to Give my Duty To vour Worthy Generall and to Dr Mr Moody . . . Respect to all Inquiring friends I should be Exceding Glad if you Plese to favor me with a Line from you by the first oppertunitie I am with all Proper Regards Your Sincere friend & affectionate Broth Portm^o May 3^d 1745

Peter Gilman

33

Gov. William Shirley to Col. Robert Hale, Louisburg, Cape Breton.

Boston June 23, 1745

Sir.

I have receiv'd two Letters from you, one from Canso, the other from before Louisburg, & according to the request of your last have sent you another surgeon in the room of that web you mention to be detain'd from your Regiment on board the Hospital Vessell; His name is Hay; I sign'd his Warrant two hours ago as second Doctor or furgeon to your Regiment — I am forry vt the Companies under your Command should have suffered for want of Medicines or proper Attendance, & particularly to hear y' you have been injurd in your own health in the time of your fervice; I gave you a Regiment purely out of the regard, I had for you, & sha have been glad if the Command might have been of fervice to your Interest-I hope however vt fuccels, of wth from the General's and Commodore's Letters to me, there seems to be a good prospect, may restore your health and clear up all gloomy prospects; In the mean time nothing will more contribute to an happy Ifsue of the Land fervice vⁿ Harmony between the field Officers, nor be a more certain Method of eftablishing the Character of every Gentleman than a disposition to cultivate it. In the inexpressible Hurry & Multiplicities of Business, we presses upon me, I must Colonel Hale refer you to Colonel Choat for a particular account of the measures, I am taking to support the Expedition—I wish you an happy meeting we your friends at Boston and am

Sir,

Your Afsur'd Friend and fervant

W Shirley.

34

Maj. Moses Titcomb to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Louisbourg Feby 15.th. 1745-6

Honod Sir-

I Receiv^d Your two Letters Bairing Date January 1st & ditto 12th. also the Sheep and bb1 of Sundrys By Cap^t Collyer who Arrived here the 10.th. Instant And Sir I thank You for the Great Care You Take of me and Your Giving Your Self Such great Confern for For the Puplick good of this Army and more Espeatialy those of Your Regiment — Sir Look uppon it as a Good Providence that You Went Home Sence Your Arguments Have Proved to be of Such Great Weight—at Court in Behalf of this Army and I hope Sir You Will from Time to time do all that Lays in Your Power at Court that Justice may Dun us While we are Detaind here to Defend this Garrison at ye Expence of our Lives by Such Mortal Sickness that have and Still Prevails amongst us. Sumtimes it Seams to abate for Some Days and then Returns again I Hope that God Has Mercy in Store for us and In his Own Due Time Restore Helth unto us again — Sir You Desierd me to Let You Know how the Fresh Provisions that is Sent to the Army are Disposed of as Soon they Came the Generall Call^d a Councel of War and a Vote was Pafs^d that they Should be Deliver to the Compy and he to Deliver them to the Sick accord^g to their Numbers in Each Company which Proof we have Receivd Will be Under God the Means of Saving Many of our Lives Sir According to your Desier I have Sent You Inclos^d the Acc^o of the Men that Did Belong to Your Company who is a Live and who is Ded—

The Master of the Schooner Keeps all the things that he Brought for Your Men that are Ded and Says that it was his Orders so to do, Sir I Wish You Joy with the Hon^{ble} Post Latly Confer^d uppon You I have no News Send You Having None But what Coms From New England Sum of which is Very Merry Viz^t A Number of Lads Being arriv^d there as officers to Raise Souldiers for this Garrison For my Parte I Beleave that if we are Not to be Releav^d before it is Done by them we Shall Stay here Seaven Years Longer and Seventy Times Seven to the End of it which God forbid that I, or any of mine Should Stay Six Months if the officers that have kept this Garrison Eaver Sence we Came into it Should be treated in Such a Manner as we hear they are Like to be Sir this is all at Preasant from Your Most Obed^t Hum^{le} Ser^t

(Maj^r Moses Titcomb's Letter rec^d Apr. 16, 1746)¹

P. S.

Pleas to Give my Sarvis to Cap^t Ives and all Friends Cap^t Glaizer is Well and Gives his Duty to You — —

To
Col° Rob¹ Hale—
In
Bevirly P Cap¹

35

This pathetic little story about the illness and death of his youngest brother, was written by Tristram, the eldest surviving son of Rev. Nicholas Gilman when he was about seventeen.

John Gilman The owner of this Book Cyphered thus far from March 1752 To May, having learn't no farther yⁿ the Rule of Three before—& this without any Instructer save Wards Arithmetick & my Help who knew no farther yⁿ he——He had learnd To write a Legible Hand—but being Sick & forc'd to lay in an easy Chair He

¹ Note by Col. HALE.

couldn't write what he had leart therefore I wrote for him & had he had Any Master to go before him its probable he might have gone thro' All Arithmetick in the same Time in which he did this—He had perfectly learn'd The Single Rule of Fellowship & cou'd do a Sum in the Double He was exceedingly Skill'd in the Power of Numbers. Understood the very Nature of Fractions & Something of Roots & Powers cou'd do a Sum in the Rule of Three or in Fractions by his Head quicker than I or others & their Pens & all this in about two Months In Short he seem'd to be a Second Archimedes—

He was of a Pleasant Disposition very forward to Learn of an easy Temper neither Elated with Prosperity nor dejected in Adversity—Quiet in all the Dispensations of Providence with him & its Remarkable that he was never once heard to pine or fret in all his Confinement nor in his most excrutiating Pains—Acted according to Reason in any Affair coud discourse upon a Topic he understood Like a Logician And After all it was his Saying, (Where Reason Ends Faith begins) In Fine he was the most desirable Companion I ever had—But every Thing here below has Vanity written upon it. Let us acquiefce in the most Heavy Strokes of Providence And say the Will of the Lord be done—

Some Accounts of his Illnefs.

John Gilman Son of Nich' Gilman Minister a Durham was born May 10 1742 at Durham where he liv'd till he was 4 years Old from whence with Mother he came to Exeter; A Large hearty Rugged Child. In 1746-7 I, his Brother Tristram was taken Sick & my Father continued with me all Winter, in which Time he took to Reading rose at 4 o'Clock every Morning All Winter—In the Spring 1747 My Father was taken Sick and I got well he grew weak till Summer & then recovering a Little Strength, he, at the instigation of some Durham People rode to Durham worried himself very much grew worse & so continued, till Apr¹ 12, 1748 in Which he departed this Life—

From Sorrows Vale (tis hop'd) he wing'd his Way To the bright Mansions of Eternal Day Hark how his Dust now preaches from his Tomb My Friends prepare with Speed to meet your Doom

For first or last you all must hither come

J. G. was taken Sick Anno 1747-8 With a Poor Stomach, Slow Fever, Nocturnal Sweats &c. In the Spring 1748 I went to One D' Foster of Boxford a renowned Phisician for such Ails, his Means were blefsed to his Recovery—Nov^r 1748 He was taken Sick with the Measles but got well of them but was poorly all Winter complaining of a Pain in his foot & in his little Finger of his Right Hand, His Foot swell'd & was lanc'd as likewise his Hand sometime after. he was poorly all summer 1749, in August he took to taking of Tarwater & so continued taking it till November at which Time he was seiz'd with violent Pains in his Back, Hips &c. He lay acrofs Mothers Lap all Winter by Day & acrofs her Stomach by Night, till March 1750 And then I went to Dr Sawyer for him whose means were blest in some Measure this Summer so as that he was able to lean over a Little Table partly by Day & lay in an easy Chair a Nights & so continued till in the Spring 1751 & then he grew considerable Better so as to bear to Ride he Rode over to Hampton Beach & was duck'd, bore it very well got better & so continued all Winter till the Spring 1752 & was very well at his Stomach only he coundn't stretch out his Limbs All his Illness seem'd to be settled there, we carried him out To the Neighbours when it was warm to try to bring out his Limbs, But he got cold & seem'd to be poorly on't Mother drew him A Blister On Friday May 22 Which pain'd him very much so that he went to Bed without Supper & had a poor Night. Saturday May 23 complaind of a Pain in his Eyes so as that he coudn't bear the Light but desir'd me to assist him in making a Fly Trap of Pointed Sticks.

O 24 Worse considerable

M.25 Drowsy all Day, The Pain in his Eyes so bad that he coudn't bear the Light at all, I went to D^r Sawyer of Newbury.

Tues. 26 In the Morning he was tho't to be a dying, sent to Dr Hate Having Numb Fits extreme Head-Ach Yellowness of Eyes &c.

Wedy 27 His Head-Ach continued growing worse. His

Tongue numb at Times

Thur. 28 Exceeding bad at Times

Fri. 29 Very bad by Fits Sat^y 30 A little Better

Oday. 31 Considerable Better talk'd all Day well, said he never Tho't himself so dangerous as others tho't him to be particularly my Mother he said he believ'd She was Frighted about him—seem'd himself again— Towards Night he grew worse again. Extreme Head-Ach, Delirious, & Then Strugling Fits which held him all Night till 2 o'Clock when One went Off he dropt into a Sog for a Quarter of an hour & then awoke in another, every One tho't to be his Last till 2 o'Clock & then he got to Sleep

Monday. Jun. 1. Something Better in the Forenoon his Fits came on again at Night. Tuesday. 2. All One

Wednesday 3. Sensible in the Morning the D^r was perswaded he was better said he had no doubt of his getting well—he lay in a Sog all Day almost—his Fits came on as bad as ever at Night.

Thursday. 4. He was in so bad a Fit that the D^r Himself tho't he was dying.

Friday 5 All One, his Fits coming On at Night. Saty. 6 All One

Oday. 7. Lay Calm & compos'd. exceeding Weak, sensible at Times kept his Lips going, his Eyes turn'd up & Sighs now & then

Had no Fits-

Lay looking about in the Evening On every Object as if taking his Farewell of all Things here below exceeding weak & unable to speak but I believe sensible not inclining to Sleep till 12 o'Clock & then began to groan & so continued till 3 o'Clock & then was freed from the Pain of the Flesh And, as is hop'd slept in Jesus.

June 8. 1752. It was 41/2 Years from his First being taken Sick. 31/2 Years since he had the Measles. & 17

Days from his Last Sudden Turn—

A Heavy Stroke of Gods Providence upon this Family being the most pleasant Branch in it—Let us return unto the Lord who tho' he hath torn yet will he heal us Tho' he hath Smitten vet will he bind us up.

Mrs. Nicholas Gilman became a widow at thirty-five and returned to Exeter to live. Her husband left £3,237 and her father, Bartholomew Thing, was a wealthy man, leaving £6,999. But there was no possibility of ease in those days and no place to invest money, so that Mrs. Gilman seems to us to have led as hard a life as her poorer neighbors. Her mother had married for the third time, Col. John Downing. They, too, were living in Exeter.

We now begin a series of letters from Mrs. Gilman's three sons: Tristram, eighteen years old and a freshman at Harvard; Joseph, fifteen, apprenticed to Samuel Phillips Savage, a merchant of Boston and Josiah, a lad of thirteen and still at home. The English custom of apprenticing a boy for a term of years evidently was common in New England at that time. The bargain which Mr. Belknap, later, proposed for Joseph's cousin, Dan" Gilman, was that he would find him "Washin Mending & making his Cloaths" but the father had to pay "£25. Pr year old tenor." Joseph seems to have had a less advantageous arrangement as he was dependent on his mother for clothes and pocket-money. To draw the line between extravagance and parsimony seems to have been beyond Mrs. Gilman's powers and Joseph, a proud and high-spirited boy, resented the interference of his relatives. His Boston letters cover a period of seven vears.

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston July 17 1753

Honored Mother

These lines are to let you know that I Am Well, and am very well contented att present, whatt I have seen of Boston I like very well. As well as the place I live att I Like very well as I have not been here long So I do not Know so much about it; I Should be Glad to hear from

home I am not att all Desireouf of Coming home which

some folks told Me So much of.

Send the watch down Also to be Mended For the longer You let it lay the worse it Will be to mend and also I should be glad You Would let Josiah Fulsome have Five pound In New Hamp^e Money if he Desires it. Business is very dull att present—there is Nothing new; only there hath Near Eight Thousand Bushels of Corn Came in From Virginia in y^e Space of Two Days Time which the Like Scarce ever Was known—I Should be glad also you would send six more Shirts and Stockins as Soon as You Can.

I have nothing More att present So I remain

Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

Post Scrip.

This being the First Letter ever I wrote You must Allow for the poorness of y° Writing as well as for the lowness of y° Stile. Remember me to all that Ask for me And to Tristram & Josiah. If you Could procure a Quantity of Bees wax For Mr Savage you would Oblige him very much he will give you Ten Shillings a pound For it att Boston.

37

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman and Mrs. John Downing, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton August 14

Ever Honored Mother & Grand Mother
Thefe lines are to let you know that I was in Health
when I wrote them, & I hope they will Find you So. I
am very well contented att Boston, & Like my place very
well, I should be glad to hear from you & I should be glad
You would send me Three more shirts for I cannot do
with one Shirt a Week If you make any new ones Make
the Sleeves Wider than the Others, Send me Two or three
more pair of Stockings. I should be glad you would get
me a Jacket made Either blue or Black Broad Cloth let
Stephen Sweet make it I would have it made Long
Wasted the Shirts scarce Deep Enough For a Pocket
Let the Skirts be Cut like my Duroy only more rounding.

I would not have it made without Shapes let the pocket Flap be quite a good Deal larger than my Duroy let the button holes be pretty long & the pocket Flap to button I should be glad of a Hanfome pair of Black Breeches pretty short att the knees & to run with Strings let the knee band be very narrow & a Flap over the buttons like my Leather Ones I do not desire you to fend my home foun Cloth coulerd Jacket if you do I shall not wear it, if Triftram does not want the watch I wish you would send it down by True, Fillbrick or the first Opportunity you have, I do not know how the Day parseth away there is no Clock Near me I do not want it for the Ornement of it but to know how Time passeth away I would by all means have you Send it Down, I have one of the Four things which is Grevious to the Eye sigh, Viz an Empty Purse, if any Body would remove this grevious Thing I would Humbly thank them. We have nothing new only ve Weaver and Spiners you have the account in the News paper & the Arrival of his Excellency William Shirley Commander in Chief over His Majesties Province of the Mafsechusets Bay, M^r S. Savage Has loft A Child the yongest since my last letter Aged 9 Mths. Hond Grand Mother

I should be glad to hear from you in Particular I wrote to you by Ward Dean it was my Forgetfulness In not remembring you in my First Letter remember me to Tristram & Josiah & to all that ask for me Pidgions were Sold for 18/pr Doz a Week ago & now are sold for /18^d pr Doz one Man Caught 300 Doz this Season they are Very Fat & good att present, I remain your Dutiful & Loving Son & Grand Son

Joseph Gilman.

38

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton Septem^r. 7th, 53.

Honod Mother

Having this Opportunity Although it be Short, I write to you Mr Coker is Just a going to Sail, I did not know that he was here till between 6 & 7 of the Clock I should be glad you would Send me the following things Viz Some more Shirts for I cannot do with one a week except I have Checkered ones if you make me fome make ye Sleeves wider than thefe I have, I cannot possibly do with what Stockings I have. Send me my thick Cloaths the first opportunity I have not Time to get a pair of Shapes nor buttons for my Cloaths I Should be glad you would Send me Some money & Shoes a pair or two. Nothing new only ye man was tried for making Dollers his Sentence is to Stand on the Pillery I hour & To be whipt twenty lashis So I remain your Dutiful Son

Joseph Gilman.

P. S. I am in good Health, have a better Somach to my Victuals than I had. Remember me to my Grand Mother and Josiah & all that ask for me.

39

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman and Mrs. John Downing, Exeter, N. H.

Honored Mother

Received Yours P. Uncle & M^r Coker am glad you are well & have sent my Jacket & some other things you Conclude my wants are well supplied my Letter P^r M^r Newell tells you to the Contrary it is so cold I can hardly write I want seven good Shirts bag Holland Sleeves and half a doz p^r of Stockings send me som money & I can Change it for you if you please to give me som I could buy things some times at a quarter price send me a p^r of glaze gloves or deer skin I cannot possibly do without my hat mine is breaking all away please to send it as soon as you possibly can am In Health this in hast so I remain

Yours Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

Honoured Grand Mother

Received Yours I am very glad to hear from you. I wrote a Letter for you & 1 for my Mother & 1 for my Brother Josiah & seald them all in one & cannot find where I have Laid them you write me word you are afraid the watch will do me more hurt than good. I hope it will not am so Cold I cannot write so I remain Your Dutifull Son

Joseph Gilman.

Dear Brother

Wrote a Letter for you and can not find it am glad to

hear you are well Remember & mind your book. So I remain Your Loving Brother Joseph Gilman. P. S. by a Letter from my Brother today he wants the following things Viz some good Yarn Stockings & his Shoes as soon as possible some Course towels & Wherewith to mend his stockings a good Neck Hankerchief send my Handkerchief also & What Ever you send him mark with his Letters—is in Health.

40

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. John Downing, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton Sep^m 27th 1753.

Honored Grand Mother

I wrote to you by my Mother I am sorry to hear of the Accident which happen'd on Sunday morning it is not good to reflext on Second Causes I saw my brother Tristram Yesterday his things are Carried to Cambridge, he hath wrote to you at Exeter Madam I think if you would Send ye watch it would be the greatest kindness you could do me it is a Common Saying to love for ye loavs but I hope it is not so now if you will not send it I should be glad to have a Letter from you no news at present Remember me to Every body that asks for me I am in health

So I remain Your Son Joseph Gilman.

41

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton Novem^r 2th 1753.

Honoured Mother

Received yours P^r post am glad you have sent my Hat you write me the Affair about William More which I am Sorry to hear of there hath a great many Accidents happend here within ab^t a Week 2 Men drowned, 1 Child scalt, 1 Man Stabbed with a knife in the manner following a difpute arose about a p^r of Buckels the two men went on forthill To End the controversy by boxing one threw the other down and as he was beating of him the other drew a knife out of his pocket & run it in to the

others Belly who died within four and twenty hours the other is in Goal & since he hath been there endeavered To hang him self by taking of his shirt, I woul'd not have you Take so much pains to go about Town for me am In hast Remember me to Every body I remain Your Dutifull Son

Joseph Gilman.

42

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton November 20th 1753.

Honoured Mother

Received yours p^r cousin E. Little 17th I should be glad to know about a Hat if you could Write me word, the Watch is mended it Cost but 3£ 10 Without a String the String cost 12/old Tenor. I cannot now stay to disfolve the difficulties about my buying som things To send Home my Brother Tristram is well Remember me To Grand Mother Brother Josiah So I remain

Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

43

Early communication from Exeter to the outside world was through Portsmouth by boat. The Squamscot, as Exeter river was then called, on which Exeter was situated, was navigable for vessels of 500 tons and these letters were usually carried by the captains, as Joseph often mentions. This is the first one to go by mail. Greenland is a village about eight miles from Exeter on Great Bay, which opens into the Piscataqua.

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton Novembr 20th 1753.

Honoured Mother

Received yours p^r M^r Newel and accordingly do agree with you that I will Drefs neat and Clean but not fine wrote a Letter for you p^r Uncle Daniel but cannot tell whether I gave it him or no this is to ask you whether or no I may get a Hat here or at home I was more difap-

pointed in not having it than In any other thing this I have is so prodigiously that it is impossible for it to Last above a Week it is broke so behind that there is a Hole you may put your two fingers in in my next I can disfolve all those difficultys about trading you write you are blamed by some for giving me too good Cloaths I desire Nothing but neatness I do not care whether my Shirts are bag Holland or no if they will wash white, nor do I care how few Shirts I have so I can have a Clean one when I want it the price of a right good Hat here is 11£ this money I will send you by the first opportunity what you wrot for I did not take the Wafers from Mr Savage which I sent you I beg'd them of M' Tyler and could have had three Times as many only these was all they had out of the desk Remember me to Every body my Brother wants some Stockings & Shoes very much send them the first opportunity So I remain Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

poft paid

To M^{rs} Mary Gilman

Att Exeter

to be left at M^r Clarks greenland

44

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton Jany 7th, 53

Honoured Mother —

thus for I seriously declare I never took Lefs pains to drefs than I now do, I am forced to go with holes In my Stockings very often & I am told of them sometimes by mr Savage himfelf now Madam I Leave it to yourself to Judge whether or not this ought to be, the occasion of my writing this is not because I think you do not take pains Enough for me, but that others may not say I am Extravagant the following things I want very much Viz. 1/2 doz Pr of Good Worsted stockings Mr Savage hath some very good Hofe at 50/ He told me to write you that you may have 500£ worth of Goods & pay in Hampe Money At the rate of three £ 10/ a Dollar I should be glad if Mr Wentworth hath any good Black Plush you wo'd get me Enough for a pr of Breeches Instead of Serge if you cannot get it get Serge my Last Black Breeches were made so poorly I am out of Conceit of your Taylors I also want 7 good Shirts if you can afford them if you cannot aford good Holland Shirts make me some Checkt ones such af you can afford it ought to be considered my Business is very different from a rope maker if I had Lived with one of that trade I sho'd expect to go accordingly for Drefs & if you can Light of a good ps of very Light Fustian I shall want a sumer Coat. I can't at present remember all things I want Remember me to Every Body I have no time to write now So I remain Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

45

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. John Downing, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton Jay 8th 1753-4

Hod Grand Mother

I am glad to hear you are wel as I also am I am very wel Contented with my Condition of Life. Contentment is a good thing I never was better Contented In my Life than I now am I shoul'd be glad to hear from you particularly nay I would not have you think I have forgot you for I have not in the Least It is Likely if I live I may see Exeter Next Commencement you were difappointed as you hoped you might be In thinking I Should not Stay In Bofton above a Month or two but I think it seems to me

as natural as home, I believe I could not have don better than I did in coming here it so altered me that I am searce the same person I was at home I Like to have forgot to Let you know I make Sieves. It is Easy work & I like it very well, I think I can never Satisfy you for ye kindnefs you always treated me with nothing New My Duty to the Colonel so I remain Your

Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

46

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Honoured Mother

I received Yours P W^m Doran I am glad to hear you are well Am Sorry to hear my Grand Mothers Death. I have my Coat made very well to please me. the making was as follows—

Viz - Making -

being persuaded by my Brother to send the other So I Remain Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

47

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton March 4th 1754

Honoured Mother I received yours P Wm Doran which brings the Meloncholly News of the Death of one who I am insensible of the Lofs of in a great Measure, I remember I have read it, tho' I forgot ye Auther that we are never sensible or at Least so sensible of the need of our Friends, as when we have loft them my Grand Mother was to me nearer than Common Mother, but I cannot say nearer than my Mother I remember my Grand Mother Often told me I had a very Affectionate Loving Mother. which I believe I never was sensible of as I now am—I now acquaint you that I have a very good Mafter Viz one who fears the Lord, I beg you would have patients to hear me, God saith that ye Children of the Righteous upon the account of their parent have no more cause to hope for being Saved on that account than the Children of ve Wicked but God reward the Children of the Righteous often times on account of their Parents tho' not Eternal Salvation yet with thee good things of this Life.—

I have my Coat made to my Liking I wish my Jacket Cloth had been sent me before it was made up. there is now left of my Coat ½ yard if You Could send me Haff yard more it will make me a good Pr of Breeches my Breeches you sent me were poorly made my Black Jacket I fhall never more wear except it can be altered, my Coat Cost for making as follows Viz.

making 4, 17, 6
Buttons 2, 18, 9
Silk & Tape — 0, 12, 6
Velvet for Cape. 1, 0, 0

Old Tenor £8,, 18,, 9

the Silk you sent me would not do. the Black Stuff was not so good as some Shalloon @ 16/ Mr Savage had so I got some for the Lineing 3½ yards £.2.16.0. the Black Stuff will not sell for so much here as att Exeter I should be glad if you would send me Down some Leather for a pr of Shoes good Calf Skin—Sole Leather Let them be

Cut as the paper Directs—— Please to make me Some good Shirts good Bag Holland Sleeves Haff a Dozen for my Best Holliday Shirts every Body tells me I do not good decent or rather my Cloathes are not fit to wear there is a great Difference between Staying at home Driving Plough making fence & the Like than going Into Ware Houses among the Best Company to the Town House & Speak to a Gentleman or going to a Lonnon Gentleman to buy a Bill of Exchange as I am forced to do What I desire by this is I may be fit to be seen in the Company I am frequently among . . . if Madam you did but know the right of the Case you would not so much Laugh at my Writing so but to Conclude I fhould be glad you would get me some Fuftian for a Coat Remember me to all Friend my Love to my Brothers—So I remain Your Dutifull Son

Joseph Gilman.

48

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Honour'd Mother

I received yours P Dudley James & M^r Savage being Sick I cannot ask him ab' the Shalloon, but I will let you know P the first Opportunity M^r Savage has been Sick 3 Weeks with A Slow fever but is something better the Chief purport of this Letter is to let you know that M^r Belknap Will Take Danⁿ Gilman On this Lay Viz Uncle Must give him 25£ P^r year old tenor this Province Money. Otherwise find him Washin Mending & making his Cloath's he Would be very Glad Danⁿ Would Come Down as soon as pofsible M^r Belknap is a very good Mafter & his Wife is a Clever Woman—I woul'd be glad you woul'd send Danⁿ Down lest he shou'd loofe his birth—Nothing New So I remain your Dutifull son

Joseph Gilman.

49

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston May 13th 1754

Honoured Mother

I received Yours of the 1st Instant by which You Inform me Your Received mine without Date. I cannot Get any Brown Taffety for Cousin Ruth pray Uncle Gilman to Send down Daⁿ Gilman as quick as possible M^r Belknap will take him On these Terms 25£ Old Tenor Silver Money M^r Savage will take Curr[ent] money of New Hamp^c. I. d.¹ any money tha[t] pass in Exeter & will take it Pr order not [torn]

I want Some Stockings very much M^r Savage has some Neat fine Cotton Hose 45/ Pr. I should be glad of a p^r of

them. Nothing New.

Remember me to all Friends—this is in the utmost Hast. from Your Loving Son Joseph Gilman

¹ Intended for i. e.?

50

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston May 16th, 1754

Ever Honoured Mother,

I Received Your Letter By way of Newbury I received the 10 £ in paper P John Dean. am Now in Health Wrote P Last Post Concerning Danⁿ Gilman who must Come Down with all possible Speed or Else send Word if He will not Come. M^r Belknap will have 25£ P Annum Old Tenor this Province Money Viz. Silver or Gold I cannot Procure any Taffety or Patch for Hamp^e Currency or Current Money In the Province of New Hamp^e we have no Thread higher than N^o 30 which is 19/ An Oz. Silver Mony I sent you P James the Thread you first Wrote for & now I must Begin my first Memorandem

ote for & now I must Begin my first Memorandem
Viz Some Fustian for a Coat Let it be a very good
piece

As many pr of Shoes as you & my Brother thinks
proper to be made Like my pumps I had when I first
came made Pr Stacy

1/2 yd of Searge to match my Coat to add 1/2 a yd I
have here for a pr of Breeches

If you please to Let me have a pr of knit breeches of
Mr Savage who has Some very Neat ones for 5 £
Silver

I want fome Stockings Very much

Mr Savage has some very good Cotton Hose for a
Dollar a pr

the above are to be sent pr my Brother. I cannot

NB the above are to be sent p^r my Brother—I cannot Come Home before Commencement All At Present— Remember me to all friends fo I remain Your Loving Son Joseph Gilman

51

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston June 10th 1754

Honour'd Mother

I received my Shirt & Coat P my Broth & am Glad to hear you are Well If you would Send me some Brown

Good Fustian for a Coat I should be glad I have scarce time to Write any thing But my feet Sweat so that when I have Wore a Pr of Stocking three or four Days they are so Stiff that I can Scarce Wear them It would be much Cheaper to have ten or a Dozen Pr Since they are never out of Fashion—I do not Care what I wear so they are but Comfortable & decent I want many things but forbear to Mention any more since you think I am too Extravagant—I cannot possibly Come home before Commencement my Love to my Brother Josiah & Should be glad to Satisfy him but hope to see him Shortly So I remain Your Loving Son &c Joseph Gilman

P. S. my Brother Tristram is always In such a Hurry

he will not Let me think How to Write

52

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston July 2^d, 1754.

Honoured Mother

I received the Shoes P Cousin Little & am glad to hear that you & all the Rest of the Family are well. my Brother Set out from Cambridge yesterday at 5 minutes after Six for Boston & got Down In Twenty Minutes, but had not time to write & desired me to write for a p^r of Good pumps to be made Handsome & well & also would be glad you would bring down (when you Come to Commencement) twenty Dollars. he sais that he has Great need of them.

I have wholly thrown by all hopes of having any more Shoes made at Home Except they make them better I scarce Ever saw a Worse p^r of Shoes than the Last you sent me nay I am persuaded that the Shoemaker that Cobled them up could not make a Worse p^r. I desired that he would make y^m Broad toes Instead of which he made them so Narrow I can hardly get them on. I would not wear them if I was not forced to

I am Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

¹ There seems to have been but one road between Cambridge and Boston at this time; that leading to Charlestown. There was a ferry running from Charlestown to Ferry Way in Boston. Tristram was on horseback, as stages were not in use until after the Revolution.

53

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston July 30th, 1754.

Honoured Mother

I put on board M^r James 2 Doz Course & half a Doz Fine Sieves & I forgot to put the Note & Letter On board You have the Note Inclosed which money is to be paid when the Sieves are fold the Note is in Old Tenor this province money I think it is not best to make my Jacket & Breeches before I Come home for this reason Viz—I do not think M^r Lord Can make y^m to fit & Suit me Unless I am there myfelf & if they do nott Suit me at First they will not Last me half So long a Time—I could not get the Wigg for Josiah time Enough to put on board Cap James; but will send it p the first Opportunity As soon as you well Can get some Checq^d Linnen for me four Shirts make the Chollars a great Deal wider than my White Ones are & when you fend them please to fend y^m all together—these are in the Utmost hast.

I remain Your Dutifull Son J. Gilman.

54

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston August 15th 1754.

Honoured Mother

I received yours Pr Sr Foxcroft. I wrote to you Pr Mr James & put the Invoice of the fieves in it but Carried them On board In the Evening & Forgot the Letter till he was [torn] I wrote a Letter to fend Pr True Folsom but he Went UnExpectedly away without my knoledge of it. I ftand In Need of A Couple of pocket Handkerchiefs which If you please you may fend. I will fend a Measure for my Jacket & Breeches since I fhall not Come home this Year wh Will fave 8 or 10£ Charge I will not for the future give You Cause to Complain I am Extravagant In Clothes if you please you may give me fome money to buy fome books the Book I now want is the New Univerfall Magazine. Which is a very Good thing. I can have ym for the Sterling Cost In London at 5/ Pr 3 Vol. £9.0.0

the Amounts to & they are richly Worth it. the Reason I want y^m now is very Likely they will soon be Dearer if I do not go home this year the Charge will be faved & much better fpent with a Little Addition for the Magazine.

Nothing Remarkable I remain Your Dutifull fon Joseph Gilman.

P. S. Do Just As you & my brother thinks proper about the Magazine Only if you Can Easily spare the Money I should be gld. If not I am Contented. J. G.

55

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston, August 26, 1754.

Honoured Mother

You have Inclosed mine of Severall Dates which for want of Opportunity I could not Send I have Altered my Mind Concerning Comeing home because Since the Last Date I have been very poorly as to health (or rather not very well). I believe that Riding will recruit my Drooping Spirits. I am fully persuaded that there is no real happiness to be enjoyed here but what flows from Virtue & a good Confeience Conscious of having done our Duty to God & Man In our severall Relations & Stations, I am far from thinking that happiness Consisteth In Wealth Honour or Long Life (tho' these are Good things) but In Living every Day or Spending every Day as we Ought—The more Our Joy the more we know it Vain—fays Young in his Night thoughts.

I hope to See You at Exeter this Week & in ye Interim

I remain (with Due Respects to all Friends)

Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

56

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Sep^r 1754

Honod Mother

I received yours p M^r Perkins Of Wedneldy Last but was so ill that Day I received it I coul'd not answer it I

Kept my Chamber from Thursday about 4 P M till 11

A M today —

I am (except a Little weak) better than I was before I was sick, & in pretty good Health Nothing Remarkable, I remain Your Dutifull Son &c Joseph Gilman.

P. S. I received my Brother Tristrams things p Coker Yesterday. Remember me to all Friends J. G.

57

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 4th Novemr 1754

Honoured Mother

I improve every Opportunity to Let you hear I am in Health: I hope these will find you and your Family so: I cannot yet find that Capt James has arrived I shou'd be glad you wou'd send my Shoes P the first Opportunity I want Them very much these I have on are wore thro' the Sole so I must get them half Sol'd. I have a great mind to and upon Mature Deliberation have thought it is in fome Measure my Duty to Learn the Mathematicks. Dr Watts in his Dedication to his book Call'd The First principles of Geography & Astronomy that with som acquaintance with these Sciences it were impossible for him to raise his Ideas of God the Creator to fo high a pitch Now you Cannot Learn well Astronomy & Geography without being Acquainted with Geometry Now if I were posses'd of a Small Quantity Of that thing call'd Money I could get all this or part of this Learning at Master Leaches School evenings That part of the Mathematicks M^r Savage proposed to teach me was very small and confifted more in Speculative Than In practicall Geometry befides I found it impossible to Learn even that in the Shop because of my Continual Interruption I have applyed my Self to Mr Leach his prize for Surveying is 16£ old Tenor — Surveying includes all Geometry Measureing Superficies & Solids heights & and diftances both accessable and inaccessable 8£ old tenor for Gageing all Sorts of Casks these two I fhall Learn [torn] I have begun uppon Surveying pray do not deny [end torn off].

58

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Nov^r 15th 1754

Honour'd Mother

Since I wrote my first by Capⁿ I received Yours P favour of Mr Sutton, dated at top Novemr 4th and at the bottom The 9th, by which you inform me of the receipt of mine of the 1st Instant. I am glad To hear you are well — you write you are afraid I do not improve the kind Opportunity Providence has Indulged me with hearing M^r Whitefield—I am fure you have not any reason to think fo — I inform you That I role at 4 In the morning to hear him and the Morning he preached his farewel Sermon I role at half after twelve at Midnight for fear of over Sleeping myfelf and before 4 In the morning was Att the Old South and waited for his Coming the meeting was exceeding full and were Singing when I got there I missd no opportunity to hear him—next you write me you are willing I should get all the Learing I can but must remember that to know God and my self is the best knowlidge I know it is but the knowlidge of the Mathematicks is no Impediment to the knowlidge of God but a great help insomuch that Doctor Watts says that he believes it were impossible for him to arrive at so high a Degree of knowlidge of the perfections of the Great Creator had he not been skilled in the Sciences of Geography and Astronomy -

I want the money for to pay for my Learing and shall

want the Other Eight pounds very soon.

No more at present I remain your Dutifull

Son Joseph Gilman.

59

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 2^d Decem^r 1754

Honoured Mother

I am now to Inform you I am In good Health thro' Goodness of God. I am now to porform An unwilling

Task which I cannot avoid Viz to write for money & Other Necessary things, but without any further preamble I shall Let you know my wants & then must humbly

pray you to relieve me. —

In the first place I want 16£ Silver money Old Tenor to pay Master Leach for my Learing Surveying 8 of which should have been p⁴ at my Entrance I have got above half way through have gone thro'ugh Trigonometry And have now Came to apply it to height and Diftances Accefsable and Inaccefsable & Shall soon Come to apply it to Meafureing Land—I plainly see I could never underftood Trigonometry without a Mafter.—

Secondly I want two or three p^r of Stockings blue yarn Or rather Worlted these stockings I have are so worn I cannot wear them above two or three days before the feet

are full of holes.—

Thirdly my Shirts 3 or 4 of them are so worn that I must send them home as soon as you send down my Checq^d ones. . . .

Fourthly my Neckclothes are worn almost out 3 or four

of them.—

(5thly) my Hat I wearing away very Fast & I must have

Another very Soon or Shall have none to wear.—

(6) Should be glad you would get me a p^r of fhoes made dd Soles shoes not pumps ftrong flat bottoms broad Toa according to the Directions sent M^r Stacy.

All the above Mentioned things I want very much &

must have.

I remain Your Dutifull fon Joseph Gilman.

P S I have some Profpect In a fhort time of getting
Some Money for my Self otherways I cannot Live

To
Mrs Mary Gilman
In
Exeter.
P Capⁿ Coker
D^a with Difpatch.

60

Tristram Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton, Decr 16th. 54

Ever Hond Mother

Its now going on Five Weeks since I've heard from Home. I hope you are all in Health & that ye have received my Letters. Mr Hancock asking me fome time ago in what Manner I intended to go Home & upon my Replying that I was not certain whether I should go Home or not, advis'd me to go Home because he said it wou'd cost me 6 Pounds P Week for my Board &c. Tho' I am not of his Opinion as to that because Parsons can board in Town & will this Winter For five Shillings Sterling P Week, but nevertheless as I shall more immediately follow those Studies next Winter which I had design'd to prosecute this at I think I'll defer the Tho'ts of it till then. I've expected daily to hear whether or not I was to provide an Horse for myself, but as I have received no Letter, I shall try for an Horse to go Home & write whether I can get One. Our Vacancy begins on the first Day of January before which Time there is a Necelsity of my Having some Money 50 Dollars if possible. Nothing remarkable except that Dr Wigglesworth has preach'd 2 Sermons against Mr Whitefield which are now printed. Give my Kind Regards to all Friends-Love to Josiah &c. from y Loving Son Tristram Gilman.

PS Pray send my Money as foon as possible for I am

out. Monday prodigious cold.

61

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 26th Decem^r 1754

Honoured Mother

I received yours P M^r Lord together with The Cloth for my great Coat to be made here. I should be Exceeding glad if you Cou'd Let Mr. Josiah Folsome make my Wigg as soon as he can I want One for Sundays very much this I have will ferve for every day a great While Tho' it is not fit for Sunday. I wou'd not have you

worry yourself in Order to get my Checq Shirts or my stockings but send them as soon as you Can Easily. Let my shoes be made strong & be sure not of Grained Leather I desire nothing but Just to go Decently I Value my Dress Less & my mind more than formerly, I am Contented to go Ordinarily Clad, but I am not Contented with Ordinary Learning After I have Done with surveying which in a short Time I shall I Design to Enter upon Gaugeing Or Mensuration—two things I want to Learn very much are Musick & Drawing with India Ink. Both which I Leave for my Brother Tristram to Recommend to you If I had a Little Money, I would Improve the Blessed Advantages I have for Learning—I am very willing to have so much Less when I am free & have my Learning than have more & not have my Learning.

M^r Savage will give 10/ P lb for Bee Wax & will not give any more—you may I believe get 11/ or 11/3 for it. I fend by my Brother my Great Coat & that Checq^d Hand^{fe} I can pay for my Hatt Till my Brother comes Down. All at present I remain your Dutifull fon &c Joseph Gilman.

62

In 1755, Shirley and other Royal governors inaugurated a scheme for the conquest of the French. The aid of New Hampshire was necessary and Col. ROBERT HALE was selected, probably because of his close association with prominent families of that province, to lay the matter before the General Court at Portsmouth. These letters to Governor Shirley give the progress of his negotiations.

Col. Robert Hale to Governor Shirley.1

Portsmº March 14. 1755

Sir

The Packet from y^r Excellency was d^d me by Cap^t Hudson & that I might (finding it your defire) be as early in my business as possible I fet out on Saturday morning & arrived here the next morning. On Monday I waited on

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

M' Wentworth at his Countrey Seat, who Seem'd unwilling I Shou'd have any Intercourfe with any of the Court except the See untill there was a House which was on Wednesday, — after he had made his Speech & the Court was fworn I immediately conferr'd privately with one & another of Such as are known to be the principal Gentlemen & partic. with him of Exeter.1 It appears to me very unfortunate that New Hampshire is rated so high, they esteem themselves but equal in Numbers to Rhode Island. however that be, by an acct taken 12 m° ago by perfons under Oath they had only 7000 rateable polls—As to the 4 Regts now raifing, they Seem perfwaded that their full proportion with in have been enlisted in their Province & they are not very forward to make any allowance for what we did last year — I am Sorry I am not able to say with certainty how many we are now obliged to maintain conftantly in Garrifon at the Castle & the Forts. I Suppose them to be upwards of three hundred for which I believe they will be willing to allow—

I rejoyce to hear that Rhode Island has come up to the Quota assigned them but they have no Embarasment about raising Money, on the Contrary, they seem always glad of an Excuse to Strike off more Bills, here nothing hinder'd their calling in theirs some time ago but a Difficulty about Settling the rate at which they were to be exchang'd, they are so frequently & of late so very greatly counterfeited, that they are quite weary of them, & the more backward to Strike off any more, especially as these last can't be a tenour as the present Bills are & which circumstance they are very fond of — the Gentlemen express themselves under Such difficulties on these two heads as to render the Success of my Negociation doubtful even the Grand point cou'd be served & all other

objections removed -

Y' Excellencies Nomination of the chief Officer is much approved—I hope a L' Col' post will most certainly be referv'd for Col Titcomb not only as he can raife a good many brave men & is fuch himfelf, but as his Mechanic Genius will prove very useful. I ask nothing better for him not being well Satisfy'd myself but that this post

¹ Evidently alluding to his step-brother, Col. Peter Gilman.

will best become him. The Diversion by ye river [faded ink] is not well relished, as it apprehended our strength will be too much divided—

[Unfinished letter.]

63

Col. Robert Hale to Governor Shirley.1

Portsmº March 15 1755.

Sir

I have y' Excellency's of yesterday, by Express bro't me to M' Wentworth's just after Dinner with him & the Sec' &cee so that I immediately laid before them the in-

closed papers, which may be of use.

My last to y' Ex. was yesterday morning by ye Post when I inform'd that I was just going to attend the Comtee of both house—they consist of four of each House—I had little occasion to Say much about the necessity of the Expedition being forestalled by the papers Sent to Gov. Wentworth, with which the Secry (one of the Comtee) had made them acquainted—only I had taken Some pains with Some in a private way before—the Difficulty was about the Quota & want of money as in my last—when I had endeavoured to answer all the objections offered in ye Comtee on these two heads, & Some others less interesting, I withdrew, first telling them I Shou'd be glad to know their report before it was given in.

accordingly in the afternoon they Sent for me & inform'd me they had agreed to 200 men—Your Excellency can better imagine than I express my Situation—I Soon found it to be the sense of the whole Committee—I renewed all my former arguments and in as different lights as I cou'd, & added others which (being a little warm) then occurred to me they heard me with Candour & attention & after about an hour & half I took my leave, first desiring they wou'd take till the morning to consider the Consequences of Such a report—this morning early Col. Gilman of Exeter (one of the Com^{tec}) came to my

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

lodgings as I had defired him over night, we began upon it again, & went thro' every thing, but it did not then appear to make any great impression on him—being uneafy I followed him to the Houfe, call's him out & urg'd Some things which had escaped me in the former Converfation—he Seem'd better Satisfied & left me to go to the Com^{tee} about ten o'Clock—

about one Col. Atkinfon Sent for me to go with him to dinner with the Gov^r—On the road down, he told me they had but just finifhed—that the Com^{tee} had agreed to 600—but to find Subfiftance only till they arrived at the place of Rendevouze intending they Shall go the neareft way thro' the woods. I ask'd him how in that Case they wou'd do for Shelter & night by the way—he Said they wou'd Send none but Such as wou'd be content to Sit down on the Ground & cover themfelves with their Heads. Every one of the Com^{tee} he said had agreed to the report. & he was encouraged it wou'd pass the House—as the board was no Danger—The Com^{tee} are of the most leading men—

On Monday the report will be made, after which I Shall move for an addition, conditionally that N York find no men, but Provisions &cee having already hinted at it, but not caring to urge it 'till the grand point was Secured—I confest I am not yet out of pain about the Quota, there being many of the other members, who don't Seem inclined to enter into the reasons why they Shou'd raise half so many men as we, when their Province has but a Sixth part so many as ours—I Shall give my whole attention to the affair, untill it has the 600 I fixt & hope to Send your Ex. the best News by the next Post—I Shou'd by no means have troubled y' Ex. with so long & particular a detail if I had not tho't that my Instructions required it. If in that particular I have misunderstood them, I ask y' Ex. Excuse being Sir Y' most obedient

humble Servant

RH-

P. S. Those Piscataqua men will want at least 20 Whipfaws, to cut logs into boards for Sheltring the Army—

2 P. S. Every Branch here affected to wonder how our Court cou'd assume to prescribe to each Government its Quota—but took no exceptions to our leading the way—

64

Col. Robert Hale to Governor Shirley.

Portsm^o March 21 1755

 Si^{r}

When I did myfelf the honour to write to Y' Excellency on the 18th by Barker, I advis'd that the report of the Comtee was to be pass'd on that day, it accordingly was in the evening, but accepted only for 400 men & a Claufe added provided a way can be found to defray ye Charge for great Difficulties attend that, the Gov having about 10 or 12000 £ of it, which he will not agree to receive less for than what is promifed in the face of the Bill—in the morning as Soon as the House Sat I sent in a Memorial defiring to be heard before the House which was granted. & at noon defired the Speaker pro tempore that when the debate was again refumed, if it appeared likely no Alteration wou'd be made, that he wou'd, before the House came to a Vote, let them know that I shou'd be glad to drink a glass of wine with them at my Lodgings. in the evening, but in ye afternoon I had a Message from ye House excusing their coming ther & desiring I would fee them at their House (which is a Tavern) at six o'Clock there on hearing the Difficulties stated by one & another I endeavour'd to obviate them & took my leave this morning they again took the report into Confideration—& agreed to raife 500 men* after so much Time Spent & Debate in public & private, I tho't it in vain to make any farther Efforts, so tarrying only to get a Copy of the Vote, herein inclosed, I hasten'd out of Town-I hope for your Excellency's Pardon in not coming directly to Boston as the General Court is so near Sitting, which I must attend on Tuesday next—I beg leave to assure Sr Yr most obedient Y' Excellency, I am

humble Servant Rob^t Hale

P.S. I rather wonder yt this Govt were willing to raise

1 MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

so many as 500 than that they wou'd not exceed that Number, as they have a very larg Frontier exposed to your incurfions of a Scalping enemy, whereas Connecticut's Quota is but double to you though they are at least three as large in Numbers & Wealth & have no Frontier to the Woods—

*in the afternoon the council concurred & to day at 12 °Clock the Gov confented, tho he raifed Some Difficulties—This is all I have able to obtain after all my

Endeavours, & I hope will be acceptable—

I am Your Excellencies most obed^t humble Serv^t R H

65

It is unfortunate that the first page of the following letter has been lost but it undoubtedly forms one of the group written to Governor Shirley at this time.

Col. Robert Hale to Governor Shirley.1

than ²/₃ so much as a Cap^t in the King's pay; they were then, to no purpose, frequently told of ye Consequence—the event proved the conjecture true—Col. Ruggles has told me, if but one man of weight & influence more had been of ye Council of war, they had proceeded—so the Army retd re infecta—& worse may probably be ve Consequence if, they engage a Fr. army, (for y' is expected, or a far lefs number might be enough) for 'tis not bare fighting will do, & this army may not be in Such a Situation as the last who had nothing left them but to fight or Swim thro' the lake—Col. Bagley Seems Sensible of this & thinks if there were 6 Battalions & so but 3 Regiments, the Gov^t woud so far advance ye Colo pay as to encourage the best men—he himfelf is so Selfdenving as to offer in v^t Case to be L^t Colo of a Battalion rather than at ve Head of a regiment. he tells me yt ye Gen, Sect (for want of an Ability in v° Col° to manage an Argument) has that influence in v° Council of war over the lower officers as to carry points

¹ MS. owned by the Amer. Antiq. Society, Worcester, Mass.

all along against the opinion of the Colonels — this may be remedied in Some measure by excluding ye Majors out

of ye Council, (as was at Cape Breton Exped)—

I am extremely Senfible of y' Excellencies kindness in fearing my Constitution may fail me as before - that tho't does not discourage me — for befides that my State of Health is far better now than when I engaged in yt Exped^t I hope not to meet with y^t insupportable treatment I had there—but befides the difficulties above hinted at I fear much for ye Conduct of ye Comtee of war, unlefs they are more under v^r Excellencies direction—the Cannon, tis Said, did not arrive at Albany 'till August ye 2d—they wou'd by no means be perfwaded to Send flower & Bak^g, inftead of Bread—nor whipfaws inftead of tents tho' it wou'd have lefsen'd ve charge many thousands & ye men been better covered, nor many other things which were earnestly prefsed on them timely eno', as Capt Osborn can witness & which it now appears might better have been attended to—to be finding fault is an uncomfortable Situation, but who can avoid taking notice of an Error which may prove fatal to an affair of the last importance —?

I wou'd by no means be mistaken by your Excellency that I am lefs desirous Gen. Winslow shou'd command in chief than any other Genl. befides y'felf in the Province. I know he has ye most Experience of any one — I believe him to have a confiderable Genius, at least for martial affairs — that he will treat his infre officers with proper respect & his Soldiers with humanity take a proper Care of their Health & not unnecessarily expose them,* that he will give his orders with calmness & have that prefence of mind in dangers as to be able readily to choose the best of any two or more expedients that may offer themselves &c, yet with all this, I can't think he will so well as Your Excellency manage so unweildly a machine as an Army of good men without any Gen. Officer befide M^r Lyman or any other by any means equal to Col. Gridley, apart from his Skill as an Engineer—however if Col. Plaisted Shall accept, he will be of great service -

For my Self, I am Sufficiently Senfible of my incapacity to afford much afsiftance & was not displeased, ex-

cept with myself to perceive your Excellency offered I Shou'd go in the army rather out of kindness to me or perhaps in reward for past Services, than that you entertain any other opinion of me, yet I think I must be more public spirited than I can pretend to, to engage under the disadvantages I have mentioned—tho' I am notwithstanding under great obligations to y' Excellency for your proposal.

I have your Excellencies Promife (& had great need of it) that you wou'd forgive my Scrawls, which however, were not intended to mean any thing inconfiftent with the greatest duty & respect, for I hope never to be so unhappy as that you Shou'd believe I am other than your most faithful Servant

R H

P. S. My Nephew R. H. Chipman is Still in so low a State of health as not to be able to attend his duty by y^e 10th of this Month, so pray y^r Excellencies farther Direction.

Pray Sir, dont forget Cap^t John Lee jun^r of Manch^r.

* that he will have Sufficient caution to prevent a Surprize

66

Josiah, the youngest son of Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, at this time left home for Newbury, the birthplace of his grandmother, Mrs. John Downing. Whether he was attending school or whether he was bound to "Mr. Sewell," we do not know, but his relations with the Littles, his grandmother's family, were very close. He asks for his "Corderious," which was, probably, the Scholastic Colloquies written in 1479 by Corderius, a preceptor of Calvin. Josiah is now fifteen.

Josiah Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Newbury April 26 1755

Ever honoured Mother

I Received yours to Day I am glad to hear from you I Got over very well over att two, I want my hat. Get

my Corderious att Uncle Daniels & bring it over for I Want it, Coulen Little says he does not know when the sacrament will be but he Will know Monday, Tell Theofilus I believe he can board here with me by what I've heard them say, Mr Sewell & Mrs Sewell remembers their Love to you

Josiah Gilman

67

Joseph Gelman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 6th June 1755.

Honoured Mother

I wrote you P Capt James since which I have received none of your favours I could not possibly get your Gown done to send P James but it is now done and I shall send it P M^r Rogers.—my Brother was well Yefterday. I want some Shirts very much since I have but Six in all and they are all very much wore Except the New One I was Obliged to go yesterday to Marblehead for a Bill of Exchange of Mr Hooper with whom I dined & I had not one Clean fhirt to put on having but two Clean and them at Mrs Kings to be new Ristbanded and must have been forced to go in a very dirty Shirt if I had not borrowed one to wear. The Reason I wear out my Shirts so fast is because I have not enough to shift me when they are Dirty it would be cheaper to let me have 12 or 13 Shirts and even to hire them Washed then to have but Six and have Made fo dirty. I have now no floes to my Feet and must be forced to buy A pr unless I receive them from you before this reaches Exeter These I now have I have wore three Monthes constantly and if they had been Seasoned well before I put them on they would have lasted another Month should be very glad if you would get me three pr of Just such shoes made as the last except inftead of Grained Leather make them of that which is not I want a fummer Coat for Sunday as I am forced to wear my Fustian one every day and cannot keep it clean fitt to wear to Meeting. I want also a good handfome pr of Breeches to wear of a Sunday should be very glad of a pr of Knit ones which I can get here ready made for Six Pound old Tenor. my Hat I dont expect to receive till this is quite worn out — I want some stockings very much as my feet sweat so I can't wear Yarn ones—however I believe I had as good leave out the other things I want at present being Convinced what I have wrote will be Sufficient to tire your patience to read As it is so far from Exeter to Boston and You cannot know what I want till I have wanted it some Considerable Time it would I believe be much the Cheapest, easiest & best way to let me have 25£ P Quarter for the first and 20£ a Quarter for the Second Year and I will be bound to maintain myself therewith, I had the Offer of sending a Venture to the West Indies in partnership with a person who sent 70£ and he had for his Returns 174£ but I had no money to send and therefore missed so good a Chance.

I cannot Plan that piece of Land you sent me the bearings properly there being a miltake in the last Station

where it says S 98 E which is impossible.

I remain with due Respect Yr Dut" fon Josh Gilman.

68

Tristram Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Cambridge, Sept 18th 1755.

Hond Mother

I improve this as well as all other Oppurtunities to write y' I enjoy my usual State of Health—I've not been to Boston fince James came but hear he has not bro't my Things pray let Joseph or any Body else convey them on Board Coker or any other Way convey them as soon as possible viz. 4 Crown Chairs to make y° ½ Doz. & y° great One 1 pr Brass Candlesticks Box of Books &c You know I'm poorly Cloth'd & therefore I need not write about it. Give my Service to Capt Light & desire him if he can to send me 50 or 60£ as soon as possible for I must of Necesity have so much very soon. You have doubtless heard before this time of y° great Battle yt was fought last Sunday Sevenight by y° Crown Point army in Wch Coll¹ Tit-

comb of Newbury Majr Ashley & Coll Williams wth many other Officers were kill'd Men are daily rais'd & going to reinforce y^m & we hear that at Connecticut they ride off in Companys 10 or 20 together without any Order at all so that we expect daily to hear more of War.

Pray answer this & write how many men are gone out of New Hampshire & w^r Coll¹ Gilman & M^r Phillips ³ are

gone for I hear they have.

I am y Dutifull Son Tristram.

69

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Sep^r 27

Honoured Mother

1755 I arrived here safe last Night abt 1/2 past 7 o'Clock & have no opportunity to send any thing P Josiah he is in such a Hurry to get to Newbury Mondy that he will not be persuaded to come to Boston on Monday morning which he might easily do if he would. I shall Send your Linnen Yarn P the first opportunity I have no Money to buy your Sugar Shall send all my old Clothes P James— I forgot to call at M^r Lampson to be measured for my Coat. he must make it as well as he can without, make it as soon as y' can send my Shoes as soon as they are done ---Yr Son Joseph Gilman.

P. S. Since this was wrote I have got ready as many of my things as I could send P Brother cannot spare these Breeches to be seated lest I should have none to

wear.

In great hast.

1 This is the Moses Titcomb who was major in Col. HALE's regiment before Louisburg. He had command of the extreme right wing of Gen. Johnston's line at Crown Point and was killed by Indians.

² Col. Ephraim Williams, who left most of his property to found a free

school in western Massachusetts, which became Williams college.

3 Col. Peter Gilman, now fifty-one years old, commanded the second regiment of New Hampshire men who went up to reinforce Gen. William Johnston. The "Mr Phillips" mentioned must have been Hon. John Phillips, the founder of Phillips Academy, Exeter, who had married the widow of JOSEPH'S uncle, Nathaniel Gilman. We find him mentioned afterwards in the letters.

70

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Octor 27th 1755.

Hond Mother

Since my last I have received Yrs P Gerrish Jenkins & M' Parkman I also received my Brothers Chairs Box of Boks &c P James. I am sorry that I have now to acquaint that your Yarn is millaid Pr the Dyer & cannot be found, but I hope it will be in a Little Time. I send 2 of M' Whitfield's Letters which Cost 2/6 a p^{cc}. I have not money to buy you any Sugar at present as I was forced to buy me a p' of New Shoes. Cap' James goes away so soon that I believe I cannot send my Coat or your Gown by him—I shall without fail Send them if he does not go to Night—the price of Great Bibles you have inclosed with on Dollar advance on each am in Good health and remain Y' Dutifull Son Joseph.

P. S. This is in prodigious hast.

71

In explanation of this letter and the following draft of an answer, we must remind ourselves that at this time New England was in the throes of a religious excitement that had begun before Rev. Nicholas Gilman's death. Churches were splitting and every one taking sides for or against the "new Light." Many of the older ministers were opposed to the methods of George Whitefield and other revivalists who were traveling through the country and many churches closed their doors to these preachers. Tristram was at Harvard where the president, Dr. Wigglesworth, and the faculty had come out openly in opposition to Mr. Whitefield, as he wrote his mother on December 16, 1754. Probably, from these agitated notes. Mrs. Gilman was very much disturbed about her two sons. Joseph's misdemeanor was either not going to church at all or going to hear the men who were preaching against what his mother believed to be the truth. It

is evident, from his second letter on the subject, that he at once wrote his mother hastily and somewhat disrespectfully. That letter was not preserved.

Ebenezer Little to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Newbury November v° 10:1755

Dear Cofin ye inclosed i recvd of Mr Savage in Boston; No person Knows ye Contents hear but my Self; i think you had best to rite Mr Savage; & Joseph your Self; i would have you be tender in ye Case

your loving Kinfman Ebenezer Little PS ye half Joannes i had of you & Sifter Gilman by ye hands of Cofin Truftom: by miftake i lend it to a man who put it of at Bofton: i rit ye man aboute it but have had no Anfwer—He took it for a guinea EL

72

On the back of Ebenezer Little's letter there is a rough draft of Mrs. Gilman's letter to her son. Her wretched writing and poorer spelling was the natural consequence of the neglect of woman's education in early New England. Even at a later date than this the public schools of Boston were open to boys only. The contrast between the letters of Rev. Nicholas Gilman and those of his wife is very marked but he does not seem to have respected her less for her ignorance, which was probably common to the women of her time.

Dear child I wrote to you by mr Cleark & send you a pair of briches which thou mistak he left att newels I send you a pair of stockens

dear child I have yeast heard a pece of malancher new I hear you dosen to be a church man which be a greaf of mind to me mr Newel with your brother Josiah is here know soo I can say but littel about itt yow but if provendenc permit shall write lardge about itt I wrote mr Cleark & sent you a pair of briches wch thou a mistak he left att Newl I sent you a par Send me word how clear board is a thousand by mr rice you may write agen by Clark

Josiah Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Hon'd Mother —

I Came home well that Day—I Carried that Leather to m^r Bartlet he will make them Monday he says that I had better get a pair of Thick Leather Shoes I do'nt know the benefit of them this Weather—I want another for to Change they will laft as Long again—Mafter Says there is a man going to Exeter for an ox he will bring this John is agoing along with him in the Middle of next week No News

So I Remain your Dutifull Son Josiah Gilman Newbury November 14th Friday

74

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 8th Decem^r 9th 1755.

My Hond & Belovd Mother

I now sit down to write with more composedness of mind Then I did yesterday, I have been very poorly as to health of Body; but much more so in mind; as you may

very well judge by the Letter I wrote yesterday.

Gratitude is one of the most pleasing exercises of yemind; says ye Spectator, and all the way I have to pay you for ye great fateegue & trouble you had with me when a Child, & still continue to undergo for my good; is to fhew by my Actions I always bear a gratefull sence of You in my mind. To obey your Commands as long as I live & ever to be concerned for your wellfare.

If Gratitude is due from Man to Man; is it not much more so from Man to his Maker; He who gave us being for no other End but to make us happy; for I am far from thinking that the God of Love & Mercy ever Created any only to make y^m miserable, & those persons that think so; must have but a very poor Idea of God's Love & tender Mercy not that I think God is all Love & has no justice.

I am perswaded that I was not born meerly to get a

great Estate, or for myself alone; nor do I desire to lead a Life unserviceable to mankind—which end I desire always to keep in View—I am perswaded that Riches must be given an Account of at the Last day—yet I know no Commandment forbidding us to get an Estate in a right & regular manner—& a rich man has more & greater advantages of doing good than a poor man.

I am not discouraged about Ventureing to Sea because the Gilmans hitherto have met with milfortunes thereby, luck & chance says Solomon happen to all men 1—however as I have no thoughts of going to Sea; it is needlels

to enlarge on this head.

I have Studied my Temper a great deal & find it is much easier to draw than to drive me to anything; & I find that I have had the greatest Sence of God & Religion after reading that passage of St. Paul "The goodness of God leadeth the to repentance" than in reading the most Threatning place in Scripture, & if that does not awaken me to a Sence of my Duty I am afraid nothing will & heartily wish that thro' the goodness of God I may be led to repentance—can any Man be so lost to all sence of gratitude as to offend so good and so bountiful a God as ours is—I do assure you Mad^m that I am confounded to think that I continue to offend one who is continually blessing me with numberless and great mercy's—so much for Religion; our only Solid & substantiall good.

I now inform you that I received P Cap^t James 17th Bee Wax & 5 lb old Pewter; have fold the Bee Wax for £9.0.0 Old Tenor & is 24 fhill^{gs} Lawfull Money which is 10/ more than M^r Tyler would have gave me for it & inclos'd you have [torn] The money the old Pewter I sold him who has Credited You with it @ 6/ P lb which

is the most it fells for here.

Have fent you P Coker 1 Loaf of Good fugar weighing 8 lb @ 7/ P lb which is the lowest that I could buy it for by the Single Loaf & which amounts 56/11/ more than my Brother gave me. Please to C^r my Brother with 45/ & me 11/.

I have likewise sent P Coker 1 m 10^d Nails price £3.5/

¹ This seems to be a rather free rendering of Ecclesiastes 9:11. "Time and chance happen to all men."

& 1 doz. Nail Gimblets 8/ my Aunt's Tea Dishes Your

Gown, my old Coat & all my old Cloth's.

Coker had saild before I received Your Letter so could not send the Sieves but can fend them to Newbury if you please — write whether you would have them fent or not. I am now in pretty good Health & remain Your Duti-

full Son

Joseph Gilman

P. S. Should be glad if you would not fhew my Letters fo much & these to nobody; herein you will oblige me very much.

J. G.

75

The next letter is written in such a way that one cannot fathom its real meaning. Whether Col. Hale was annoyed with Governor Hutchinson or, in common with him, with a third person, it is difficult to say. At this time Thomas Hutchinson, the afterwards unpopular Royal governor of Massachusetts, was a judge of probate. What Made de Saxe's "Pantin" was or who was Madam Wiborne, are things we shall never know. "Mr. Bellan" was probably the Mr. Bollan who came to Massachusetts in 1741 and was later agent in England for the colony. The "Dog Act" was passed this year, giving a bounty of 5s. "to encourage the keeping of dogs." Two years before the town had voted a bounty of 2s. on every dog's head brought to the town treasurer. This must have made Beverly unpleasantly conspicuous among the small towns around and the inhabitants were ready to take offence owing to another nickname that the town had borne before which Col. Hale alludes to. Roger Conant, in 1671, had tried to get the name changed to Budleigh, which was his birthplace in England. His reason was that the town, being "but a small place," had the "constant nickname of 'Beggarly."





BOOK-PLATE OF COL. ROBERT HALE Owned by Robert Hale Noves of Portland, Oregon, sixth in descent from Col. Robert Hale

Col. Robert Hale to Judge Thomas Hutchinson, Boston, Mass.

Beverly Dec^r 24. 1755

Dear Sir

Fashions generally take their rife at Court and from thence by flow degrees descend to the extremities of the nation where the fashion appears when the reason of it if out of sight; they are not however always founded in reason, yet mostly obtain, as there are always more fools than wife—as it was 100 years before when D^r Fuller wrote of it—No one is ridiculous, for what he is, but for afsuming what he is not—thus it might be well eno for Mad^o de Saxe to curtfie with her Pantin, but not so for Madam Wiborne—

Mr Bellan, I am perfwaded, is more dictated by good fenfe than custom—fhould he write you he had fent you fuch a paper inclosed, his information wou'd be unnecefsary—if he anfwers any part of yr letter, you wou'd be as fully perfwaded he had recd it as if he told you so—'twou'd be impertinent to mention it, if he had nothing to fay to it—which might be because the fubject was exhausted, or it might not deferve an anfwer. For either the weak low or trifling notices in it—& this last I confess I always took to be the reason why you have scarce ever answered mine, as for the contrary property in them,

I always answer yours—

A late writer of y° History of Great Britain, observes that divers places are at this day famous for the same tempers, dispositions &c which Campden remarks in them so Swift sayes that Banbury is as famous for Zeal tho' not for Cakes, & I assure you that what as much as anything displeased our pple here about y° Dog Act was that some of our wifeer Neighbours, on its passing call'd this Dog town. However, it seems our legislature last year were a little more compassionate & obliging than that in 1671—Cap¹ Lothrop (who with his Company were all but 3 kill'd by y° Indians near Deersield 1675) was the Agent to y° Court for y° Town, & y° Deputy in 1671—he came from Beverly in Yorkshire & prevail against Conant, tho' supported by almost all y° principal men in y° Town.

my predecessor, then an Inhabitant here, did not subferibe with ye rest—that is, he was not in the fashion, & there is something you see of the same unpoliteness descended to his Grandson, Y most oblig'd

humble Serv' R H —

Th. Hutchinfon

76

Josiah Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Hon'd Mother

I improve this oppertunity to let You know that through the divine goodness of God I've got redd of my cough. I have receiv'd 2 pr of Breeches & one Jacket the Plush Breeches I can't butten att the knees. I shall send them home—Clemence lives on the Road 1 or 2 housen this side of Thurrel's bridge on the right hand—I sent you a Sheet of Paper it cost half a Crown—I have paie Edmund Bartlet 18 Shillings for making 2 for what Leather he found—I want a pr of Shoes these are wore out—Theoph is well—

So I Remain your Dutifull

Son— Josiah Gilman Jun^r.

Newbury March 15 1756

77

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 31 March 1756.

Hond Mother

I have just now seen M^r Perkins who arrived in Town about ½ hour ago & designs to go out tomorrow morning he tells me has a p^r of Shoes for me & likewise a Letter but has left them both at his Lodging which is ¾ of a Mile from hence I cannot therefore answer the Letter but must defer it to the next opportunity never could have any thing happend more luckily than my shoes being sent at this time for I am allmost barefoot & have not one penny of money to get any with—should be glad if you would send me 2 or 3 Thousand of Clear Boards pr the

first opportunity as I owe M^r Dawes & he is willing to take them provided you send them soon I have had no spending money since I was at home therefore pray you to pity the poor or rather your poor Son

I am in Health & Remain

Your Dutifull Son

Joseph.

78

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 6th April 1756.

Hond Madam

I received P M^r Lord a Shirt 2 pair Stockinge & four Crowns two for my Brother & two for myself for which am much obliged should be glad if you would lay out the remainder of the Bill I left with you when at Exeter in Quills & send y^m P the first opportunity do not fail to send me 2 or 3 Thousand Boards P James as I have promised them to M^r Daws who expects y^m very foon, & who I have owed these two Years We had the 22^d ult a prefs in Town for Men to go to Crownpoint 1—and escaped very narrowly. I am in Good Health & remain with due Respect to

all Friends Y^r Dutifull May 6th inftead of Aprill

Son Joseph

79

Mrs. Nicholas Gilman to Joseph Gilman, Boston, Mass.

Exeter may 23

dear Child

my doler is not Come yet I expect them next weak I fhall Send them by the first opertunity if you have not Sent Josiah Shurt & the briches Send them by the first opertunity in hast M G Send my gound by the first good opertunity

In order to get the large number of soldiers that were needed to protect Louisburg, the British resorted to impressment in Boston and riots followed. Col. Hale was put on the committee to report on these outrages.

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 8th June 1756

Hond Madam

I receiv'd yours dated 21 May P M^r Lampson but was in the Post Office, for which I paid about twelve pence a Line

Have wrote severall Letters to you since I have had any from you, This serves to beg you would by no means fail of sending the Boards I wrote for as I have promised them to M^r Dawes & he now wants them very much I tell him he may depend on having them P James or Coker.

I want some Stocking very much.

Am in Health & Remain Your Dutifull Son Joseph. P. S.

My Brother was well yesterday.

81

Tristram Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Cambridge 28th — 1756 —

Madam—

Having this Opportunity to write I improve it, I am at present in pretty good Health as to my Body in general but nevertheles I shou'd not be surpriz'd if I shou'd be oblig'd very soon to take a Tour somewhere or other to get rid of a very troublesome epidemical Ail that I am something suspicious has taken hold of me tho I am not certain but if it is really so I shall be certainly perplex'd what to do for it will be a grievous Affliction but I must invent Some Means or other perhaps I may come Home but after many Tho'ts I can't invent from whence I caught it—If you can send any Dollars by Daniel Gilman I wish you wou'd for to speak the Truth I have now but 3 Dollars by me having paid off all the rest since I came — I have I think but 4 Shirts I tho't I had 5 — Nothing Remarkable except that Gov Shirley has lately lent this Province 300000 Pounds to enable them to carry on the Expedition — I am wth Regards to all Friends Yr dutifull Son Tristram

P. S. Pray send my Sheets.

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 26th July 1756.

Hond Madam

I have received no News of you since you left Boston but hope these will find you and Family in as good Health as it leaves me.

Have bought the Bible you left me the money for and shall send it with your Whale Bone and Wheat (if I can get any) by the first good opportunity. Have some good India to sell upon Commissions which you may have by the single pound for £5.5/ or by the half dozen for £4.15/ this money. you may write me word whether it will suit at that Price with you if it does I will send up some

M^r Savage talks of going to Portsmouth this Week P whom shall write more particulars 'Tis probable I shall

ride up my Brothers Horse.

Yr Dutifull Son

Joseph

P. S. my Love to Tristram.

83

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 3^d Sep^r 1756

Hond Madm.

I receiv^d yours P M^r Doran yesterday and P M^r Perkins this day both dated 1st Sep^r. My last was P Cap^t James we were then in fuch a hurry I could not possibly write you so particular as I would have otherwise done as we were then just opening an Insurance Office ² so hope you will excuse me.

I received a Shirt P M^r Doran—could not possibly ride up my Brothers Horse for the above reason viz our opening an Office in which there was no body to write but myself and considerable business to do, tho' I am sensible

¹ India tea.

² In the Boston *Gazette* of August 30, 1756, is the following advertisement: "Notice of opening Insurance Office. Sam: Phillips Savage Ann St. near Town Dock. Policies will be underwrote by Gentlemen of undoubted Credit and upon reasonable Terms."

it would be for my health to come into the Country once at least in a Year. yours P M^r Perkins informs me Cap James had just arrivd & you had your Whalebone & Bible by him safe—I could not get you any Wheat good for seed as there was none then in the Dock—The reason why I sent you no Indigo is because I think that I have to sell is not so good as the sample you sent me and you desird me not to send it if it was not so good.

I should be glad you would get the Boards ready for M^r Dawes, I have by some small work at writing (since you were here) earnt enough to pay him £13.10. this money and should be glad I could have paid him y^e whole Sum I owe him; he says he would willingly give me the money again for Boards so if you please to send enough

you may have the money for your own use.

I am very sorry you had that Fustian Coat made for me as it will not fit me and it will cost something to alter it and the Season for Summer Clothes was very nigh spent when I received it and I cannot wear it every day for above one Week before it will want washing and the Washing will cost before it is wore out as much as a New Coat would—my Breeches you sent me now want washing tho' I have not wore them a fortnight and shall not want to wear them much more this Year.

I should be glad you would get me some Shoes made just such as you sent me P M^r Jewet which I sent up by my Brother to be Soled let them be strong double soles and not too large I shal soon want them as I walk now Three times as much as I have done since I livd in Town. I want a good winter p^r Breeches, and my Shirts all want mending—I want some New ones very much, (want I believe is a word usd the oftenest of any in my Letters).

I should be glad if you would buy some Quills with the money I left with you when I was last at Exeter I Left 3£ your money and you were to pay M^r Tilton 12/ for 1 Grofs Quills I bought of him please to send the remainder all in Quills if you can get them. My Brother was well yesterday.

Am in pretty good Health at present and Remain with

due regard to all Friends Your Dutifull Son

Joseph

Josiah Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Hon'd Mother

Trough the goodness of God I am in good health at Prefent.

I Left your wool at Hampton falls & Did not pay for the reft Because he was not at home & She Said that it would do as well when you sent for the other. M' Titcomb says that one spring in a Window will do for a small one. I will get one made & send it over. he Thought that you would use that Butter if he could not git it over he would be glad if you Would buy him some Butter with that money he left at 1° lb. He Expexts Some Beef of you or Sauce this fall if you can get it over. I paid for your Tea bought some Cocolate & sent you.

No more at Prefent.

Your Dutifull Son Josiah.

Newbury Sep^r 13 1756.

P. S. Do not Buy the Butter without you can send it.

85

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 1st Octor 1756.

Honourd Mad^m

My last was P Post since which have received yours P M^r Newell with the Meloncholly News of the Death of Uncles two Children which hope will have the desird effect on me. I never received any Letter relateing to their sickness which you say in your last you sent me—am forry you did not mention any thing concerning M^r Daws Boards as he asks me allmost every day about them. now for my wants—firstly my hat is allmost wore out. 2^d I want my Coat turnd or else a new one 3^d I have not one Jacket fit to wear to meeting 4th I have no Breeches to wear but what are tore all to pieces nor can I tell when I shall get mine of Sutton and I will go naked before I will run in debt for a pair and it will not be long if I do not receive some before I shall be naked, 5th I have but 3 Neckclothes I can wear, 6th allmost all my shirts are

worse for wear—7th my feet sweat full as much now as they did in fummer so I cannot weare a pr ftockings above two days so as to leave any bottoms to the feet of them. 8th I want some shoes very much as those you sent me last are so much too big and long for me that I cannot possibly wear them with any manner of ease or comfort.

I have paid M ^r Daws towards what I owe him £	
paid him for putting on Buttons & mende my Coat	1.15
paid him for mending my Jacket	0.10
paid him for Lining for Ditto	
paid Mrs King for mending Shirts	0. 9
paid for Washing my Coat twice and Breeches	1. 0.0
paid D° my White Jacket & Lining mendg &c	1.10
-	

Carried Over ¹	
Sum Brought Over	19. 9.0
Cash paid a Shoemaker for mending my Shoes	1. 5.0
paid for mending my Stockings	0.10.0
Cash paid for new Lining my Hat	0.10.0
Cash for small Expences since last July	0.15.0
Cash paid for a Penknife	0.12.0

£23, 1.0

so I have spent all my money I got by keeping an Acc' of the Lottery which I intended to have sent as an Adventure and doubt not but by the Blessing of Providence I might have doubled my money, I have opportunity's enough to fend Adventures as by my Businefs I become acquainted with allmost all the Merchants in Town and so much into favour with some that I could have the Liberty to fend twenty or thirty pounds in their Vefsels without paying Freight—I hope you will remit me the above money which I think was none of it spent extravagantly—if you will send the Quantity of Boards 2 you agreed to fend Mr Daws he will pay me the money for all above what I owe him should be glad if you would fend me some part of the above within a Month as I shall have

¹ A new page of his letter.

² The manufacture of lumber was the chief source of revenue in Exeter for a century after the settlement and owed impulse to EDWARD GILMAN, our emigrant ancestor, who was a man of property and set up saw-mills there. Even as late as 1802 ''Gilman's Saw-mills'' are the only ones shown in a plan of the town.

an opportunity to send a good Adventure to the West Indies in that time by a good carefull man.—You will please to remember there is a Dollar coming to me from the Kingston Woman for the Bible which please to get af soon as you can.—I left with you when at home last year a three pound Bill 12/ of which was to be paid M^r Tilton to procure me Quills, I have wrote M^r Tilton to procure me Quills to the Value of 48/ which now remains in your hands and as it belongs to M^r Savage should be glad you speak to M^r Tilton about them.—

I want to come to Exeter for many Reasons but have

no prospect of coming this year.

I like my Business very well and have enough to keep me constantly employd for which desire to be thankfull.

I am in Health and Remain Your Dutifull Son

Joseph Gilman.

P. S.

Since I wrote the above I received yours P M^r Rogers shall write you by Clark or M^r Rogers.

86

Parker Titcomb to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Newbury Novemb 23 1756 Madum Gilmind

I would aquaint you that if I can have of your Beaf as I Can have at newbury which is 12^d pr pound with the Taler for the Cash I shal set my worke at Cash prise and as for that Cash I left with you for to by me sum Butter I Cant Desier you to Trobul your self about that only send me the money But if you have bought the Butter then as there is an opertunyty to send that and the beaf tow By Esqr smiths Teeme that is a cuming to newbury next weeke as I am informd

this from yours to serve Parker Titcomb my worke Eight days at half a doler pr day and Expence

-twenty one shiling

the hole is 10-2-0

Madum pleas to send me good Beaf if any
To M^s Mary
Gilmon At
Exetur

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Jany 4th 1757.

Honord Mad^m

I just now received two Letters P Zack with a Shirt, two p^r Stockings & pocket Handkerchief I receid 10 Dollars by M^r Taylor with your Letter, & answerd it by Cap. James—I have got my Coat turned here as it was so much worn could not wait any longer.

I want very much to go Exeter but M^r Savage is not willing thinging (I suppose) there is no connection between any Relations besides himself & his, however I

would not find fault with him.—
I am in Health and Remain

yr Dutifull Son

Joseph

[This note is written on the same sheet and is to Tristram Gilman.]

Dear Brother Tuesday 3 °'Clock.

I just now received yours by Zack—I believe M^r Savage will not let me go home as he refusd me a little while ago—but as he is not here now, I cannot go to James Folsom but you may depend on a Letter by the Post (in time) whether he will come or not.

Yours &c.

88

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 21st Feby 1757.

Hond Madm

I have received none from you since my Brother went home.—I expected a pair Shoes P post, but he tells me he has brought me none: mine are much worn, and I know not what to do for a pair; unlefs I have y^m by next post.—looking over my Shirts I find I have but two fitt to wear, p[lease] send me fome by my Brother, or I m[ust go] naked I want a good Jacket very mu[ch], my Hat is very rusty. Neckelothes I am in great want of —I am allmost

discouragd asking for Money or Clothes, as it is very hard to get Dollars or any thing else that will answer here, but at the fame time necessity obliges me to ask or go naked.

I am in Usuall Health and Remain

 \mathbf{Y}^r Dut¹ Son Joseph.

P. S. pray remember my Shirts as I cannot do without them any way.

89

Tristram Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Mad^m Cambridge 9^h March 1757.

Arriv'd last Night safe at Cambridge I think upon the Whole it was best I came when I did, Today have been to Boston bo't your Spectacles & Cases & Sermon the Price Josiah has—Joseph says Boards in Boston are 13 £ P Thous but they will soon fall. Dawes expects 3 Thous Mert pine & 1 Thous Hemlock which I told him you would send him as soon as the River was open— Prentice will take Mert pine Boards, but then he dont want to buy till June when they are at the Lowest, however He says that if you will send him some within 6 Weeks he will give 12 £ P Thous but don't want any clear they are about 18 £ P Thousd - I've discours'd wth Allen about his Wool and he informs me it is very uncertain whether or not he can take any Boards because it was his Brother who us'd to sell the Wool & he is dead & his Sister will endeavour to pay some Debts in Boston with her Wool, it was 6/3 P to last Year & perhaps will be 6/6 this Year. He will certainly have some to sell for money & has promis'd me the first Offer—I am better in Health I believe if any thing—

I am your dutifull Son Tristram —

90

Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston April 13th 1757.

Hond Madam

I received yours P Mr Taylor with 2 fhirts for me and a

small Bundle for my Brother, as also yours P Cap' James with a Guinea which wants but one Grain of Weight and will pass for as much as if it wanted nothing, it is worth £23.6.8 your money Dollars at £5.—I have got the Bone put up and shall send it P James by whom I shall write particularly.

I this day received yours P Daniel Gilman, am glad to hear you and Family are well Candles are from 4/ to

4/6 P Box and sell well.

I should be very glad if you would fend M^r Dawes Boards P James, if you can get 1000 Plank Board Measure or 500 Plank Measure he would be glad of them.

I am in great want of Neckclothes, and thin Stockings as Summer is now approaching and my Feet sweat so much I cant wear a pair above two or three Days at most. I have severall more old Shirts which I should be glad

to change for New Ones.

I want a Handsome Jacket very much as I have but one which I have worn constantly this Year & half and it is now very shabbed. I remember you told me you would give me a New fuit of Handsome Broad Cloth this Summer, if I was a good Boy, I think I have been pretty good and fo expect them.

Your Dutifull Son

Joseph.

91

Samuel Gilman was the eldest son of Judge Nicholas and Sarah (Clarke) Gilman. He was a Captain of Foot in 1732, justice of the peace in 1740, judge of the Superior Court from 1740 to 1749, and Colonel of the Fourth Regiment of Foot in 1755. This receipt evidently marks the end of his trusteeship for his brother's children.

June ye 18th 1757

then Receved of bro Samuel Gilman fifty Nine Pounds and one Shilling old tenor in Part of what he was intrusted to Improve for the benifit of my Children P me Mary Gilman

Tristram Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 20th June 1757—

Madam —

According to my Promise of the 19th I now write you being at Boston—I am forry you sent me any Affairs for my Cloaths as I did not expect them & we expected Commencement fooner than usual & I had provided Trimming here—Pray write me as soon as may be who are coming to Commencement—As to my Gown You may make up what you have if you make any—As I have not yet seen my Things when I have seen them I shall again write you—I am in health & in great Haste Your dutifull

P. S. Let Josiah give my Compliments to the Collⁿ Family & invite them if you think it best—my Love to Josiah

To — 6/6

Mrs Mary Gilman
Six Shillings
for the Post

To be left at
Mr Clarks at

To be left at Mr Clarks at Greenland

93

Tristram Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Masst Hall June 27th 1757.

Madam

This in the utmost haste by M^r Little informs you the Overseers are going to set again tomorrow to vote whether we shall have a Commencement or no & we are not able to determine whether we shall have any or no. I shall write as soon as I know—want Nothing but Money which I must have soon, am at present as well as usual.

Your dutifull Son T. Gilman.
P. S. If we have Commencement it will be on July 13th,
I suppose. Love to Josiah, & Respects to other Friends.

¹ Tristram Gilman graduated this year from Harvard.

JOSEPH GILMAN to Mrs. NICHOLAS GILMAN, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Sep 14th 1757.

Hond Madam

I received your P M^r Clark, am glad to hear you are well.

I should be obliged if you would send me a p^r Shoes P Cap^t James, or P Post if he is come away, as I want

them very much.

It is now time to think of Winter Clothes, & I have none by me—I should chuse to have a good broadcloth rather than Searge and for Col should chuse a blue and Breeches the same I should be glad to have a black or Crimson Jacket and as I have had a black one lately if you please you may get the latter. It will be best to send the Cloth and have them made here as Mr Daws owes me enough to pay for the making a fuit, please to send some white Tammy 1 to Line the Coat and Jackett, and Buttons for the Coat the same Col^r those for the Jacket I can get here. If there is no Goods come in to Portsmouth, I believe it will be the best way to get them here as I can have them much cheaper to pay in Boards than wth you Should be glad if you would let me know foon whether I can have them there, for if I cannot I must look out for them here as I cannot possibly do without this Winter, I shall want a pr Boots this Winter, I know not what to do for a pr, if they are made at Exeter, tis ten to one whether they fit me, and I have not money to get them here. My Hat is fairly worn out. I am not in present need of winter Stockings as I have 3 or 4 pr varn ones by me. I should be glad of a Couple more fine Shirts, I have one (that Mr. Prentice of Cambridge left here) of my Brothers, which I should have fent him but believe I stand most in need of it.

I am in pretty good Health & Remain
Yr Dutifull Son

J. Gilman. Sep^r 15th

P. S. I received y^{rs} P M^r Perkins, but could not fend any thing by him as he went out of Town this morning and I am much hurried wth the Office businefinefs. J. G.

¹ Tammy or Taminy was a light worsted fabric.

Capt. Benjamin Ives, Col. Robert Hale's son-in-law, was living in Halifax, N. S., at the time of his death, December 26, 1757. His wife returned to her father's home and there spent the rest of her life.

Col. Robert Hale to Hon. William Browne, Beverly, Mass.

Beverly Feb. 3. 1758

Worthy Sir

It is not improbable but Van-Hale whom you mentioned to me when I had last the Honour to wait on you here might be a descend from the first of our Family but is no proof that we are of Dutch extract, but rather that his origin was from England — for I take it that all prefixes of yt kind denote ye younger branches especially if you consider that there are at least two places in England call'd Hale—one in Cornwall, the other a little above Liverpool—but I look on our name to be of far greater Antiquity than either the Dutch or English nation vid — 2 Chron. 17.7 — there you find Ben-hail (or as it is fince corrupted Ben-hale) the chiefes of King Jehosaphat's princes—now you know that Ben in Hebrew is the fame as Van or Mac, Fitz or Son in Dutch, Scotch, French or English—whence it appears that even this Prince was a Cadet only of our Tribe & tho' I can't tell the intermediate parts of Succession. — vet 'tis as certain as if I shou'd call by name every link of the chain-I take it ours is by this account the most antient Family extant in the universe for as Jehosaphat lived Anno Mundi 3090, we can tell of one of our Stock who flourish'd about 2600 years ago — indeed it does not appear to we of the tribes he belong'd—but as he was doubtlefs of Judah or Benjamin, I question not (as the Jews were very careful of their Genealogies) but some of them might be found who cou'd, ftep by ftep, trace up this Princes Original even to the Patriarch Jacob & then you know, we are certain of every one of his progenitors even to Adam—Besides, 'tis very possible they may be as well acquainted with the descending part of the line 'till some at least of the Family fettled in Scotland - For there is no doubt

but that Country was at first peopled by the fons of Israel; as may be gathered from their abhorrence of Swine's flesh & their wearing no Breeches in ye Highland parts even to this day, not to mention their coats of many colours, fuch as Jacob made for his fon Joseph, nor many other things in which they Symbolize with their fam'd Ancestors of old—Some one of thefe I suppose emigrated to Liverpool & gave name to the Village near it who retaind the Name with the variation only from Hail to Hale, while a very considerable number of them continu'd in the North, who to this time have no farther corrupted it than to write Have instead of Hail which is very inconsiderable, fince tis only suppressing the terminating letter w^c is common with many nations to do when it is a consonant & then it founds exactly as Have — this last, you are well inform'd is a very numerous (as well as a Noble Family) in North Britain, & to them I am proud to be nearly related—I doubt not (so numerous are your Family & ours) (I mean the Hayes) but upon a very little fearch you will find fome branches of them united—I assure you Sir if so, I shall be no less pleas'd with an account of that alliance than with being able to tell the names of every one of my ancestors in the male line (for fuch I certainly had) even up to the great Protoplast of us all — I fubscribe myself, Sir, (upon this presumption,) your most affecto Kinsman &

humble Servant Rob^t Hale

96

Hon. William Browne to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Dear Sir.

Your Obligeing Letter respecting the Pedigree of the Ben-hails, vel Van-hales &cth reached my hands this cold morn with as sparkling a countinance as a mug of Warm Old Syder could possibly show, and was as refreshing to me, as that would have been to a market man just at break of day. That you & I are Related to each other is

a Matter beyond dispute; but as it took Mr Warburton three years continual Application in joining the Links of the Chain of the Bryun's, Brun's, Brayn's, Bryn's, Bruin's, Bruens, Brum's, Brent's, Brown's, Brownings, Brownlow's, Brownrig's &cth &cth &cth pray how long a time must it take me to Link to this Chain The Ben-hails. Von-hales, Hayes &cth. you certainly Judged right Sr in applying to me to Close this Chain for you, for had you applied to M^r Warburton he would have deceived you, being but a fresh man in Rabbinical learning & quite Unacquainted with the Endless Genealogys mentioned by St Paul. you may depend upon it, that I shall make a thorough search in my Office, in order to gratify your curiofity & my own Vanity in haveing a real title to Subscribe myself for the future — Your Ever Loveing Cofsen Beverley Feb: 4th 1758 till Death— W Browne

97

John Choate to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

February 13th 1758

Dear Sir

When I meet you the other day you told me you Should be here Sum time on tuesday. I have fpoke to Collo Appelton to be at home as you defired And beg Leave to Expect you in time to dine with me.

If you have Aney good News Pray bring it with you for

we have none here and are in grait want.

your Humble Srvt

John Choate 1

98

A Petition to Col. ROBERT HALE 2 from Judith Adams.

Honoured Sir after most humbe & penitent Confession for all my past misconduct & abuse to my fellow Crea-

¹ Hon. John Choate, of Ipswich, 1697-1765, was Justice of Sessions and of Probate Court and was on the Governor's Council from 1761-1765.

² Col. ROBERT HALE was justice of the peace in Beverly.

tures of whome I ask ten Thoufand pardons, hoping and desireing I shall fome time or other be able to make amends which I Shall readily Embrace, & trust & hope for—but as the Cafe is now Curcumstanced with me, I Cannot do anything towards ye Same, being now Confined In a dark & Loathsome — Goal, which the hard in it Self, is a lefs punishment than my Crimes deserve, for I acknowledge I have led a bad life in times past, & have been guilty of many & bad crimes, for some of which I have been deited & punnished, but I hope & Trust I have Seen the Evil of my ways, & will do the utmost—that lyes in my power, by the help of him who Governs and over rules all affairs, for the futer to live a fober honest. and Regular life, & Desire the prayers of all good people for me, that I may be inabled fo to do. — Honoured fir I beg this favour that I might have the opportunity to discourfe with you, & that you would take my deplorable Cafe & Curcumstances into Consideration, & if possible to Relieve me in fome measure (if not in the whole) fo that I might [torn] wholly Confind here, pray fir give a listning ear to my poor distresed Cafe, & beg leave to fubscribe your Honours penitent

Humbe & distrefed Serve Salem Goal April 10th 1758 Judith Adams P: S: I Shall be intirely willing to Conform to any rules & measures you Shall think proper to propose on my behalf—
To Robert Hale Esq^r

99

A few of the bills that passed between Mrs. Gilman and her son may be interesting on account of the articles and prices. It is very evident that the products of the farm and possibly of a saw-mill were bartered in Boston for the family maintenance.

Boston June 7 1758

Invoice of a parcell of Pewter belonging to W^m T. Kilby & Joseph Gilman in the hands of Cap Joseph Frost in New Castle and is to be deliverd to M^{rs} Mary Gilman of Exeter—

viz

Lawfull Money
2 Tea Pots with Legs at 4/4£08. 8
1 dittowithout do
8 Bafons weigh ^g $10^{10} 10^{02}$ at $1/7\frac{1}{2} \dots 0.16.11\frac{1}{2}$
3 doz Plates 30^{16} at $1/7\frac{1}{2}$ 2. 8. 9
13 Dishes 30: 2 at d° 2. 9.10
½ doz. pad Locks 0. 4 £6.12.2½
is in Old $\overline{\text{Tenor}\text{£49.11.6}}$

100

JOSEPH GILMAN to Tristram Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Octo 10. 1758

Dear Bror

I yesterday rec^d yours P M([torn] B[torn] I am very glad to hear you enjoy a good f[torn] of Health, & am obliged to you for informing me of it—I rose this morning afsoon as it was light that I might gain a little time to write you, for neglecting which by severall of the last [torn]

This waits on you by my old Friend Doe^r Lampson, by whom I shall fend M^r Edwards Book if he can conveniently carry it—All I can say about your Letter to Barret you sent last Winter, is, that I have been carefull to deliver all your Letters immediately on my re[ceiving] them. yours to M^r Chardon have del^d him—M^r Edward's Book was printed off before I rec^d yours fo had not oppot to fubscribe, but got it at the fame price viz a Dollar—

M^r Prentice has paid Cap Stedman, & I only wait for his rec^t (which he says he will bring the next time he comes to Town) to repay him—My next by M^{rs} Rogers who will go out of town the beginning of next week by whom I shall fend your Copys; if they are not finishd to fend by this opp^o

I remain your Loving Brother Joseph Gilman

PS I have been at M^r Kneelands to enquire about the other Book you write you Subscribed for, there is feveral Sermons lately published by M^r Belle [torn] half a [torn] is not among the Subscribers, if this is the Book you mean please to write me & I'll procure it—

Y^{rs} J G

From this letter we suppose that Joseph Gilman was at one time at the head of one of the lodges of Free Masons which were formed in Boston about 1733.

Joseph Gridley to Joseph Gilman, Boston, Mass.

Halifax 12th January 1759

Brother Gilman

To you I write, as Supposeing that Honour (which was Justly Confurd on you, when I had the pleasure of being one of the Craft & under your Direction & Command) is Still in Continueance, I therefore Greet you with that Love Obedience, & Affection Due from an Inferior Member, to One who is Invested with that power which your Merit Greatly Adorns—

Your Presidency will Excuse my Neglect of writing which I call my Duty, and pray let this Neglect be Intirely Obliterated, as it was not Commitd for want of Love, Affection & Due Esteem, but be Afsured, my Breast Contains as much of this towards you & the Fraternity, as you or they Can Expect, notwithstands I havnt the pleasure of Renewing it Weekly—

I hope you have brought matters in Due form & Regulation, as also that that Brotherly Love which is our Profession is Still predominate in the Hearts of each one. My Hurry of Business, will not permitt me to be Lengthy upon any Occasion. therefore I beg you will Excuse the Brevity of Dear President—

Your Affect^{nt} Brother

Pray my Love to the Brethren

Jo: Gridley
M' Joseph Gilman

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John Choate to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

February 27, 1759

Dear Sir Your faveour of yesterday is so sull of matter good sence and frendship yt it deserves a suller answer and acknoledgement then the Crowd of people I have about me will allow me to Give. My letters went to boston a day or two before yours was sent you. I wrote ye

left Gou about Coll^o Gerrish, tho I dare not mention him to y^e Gou^v and thought I had told you so in my letter. I had in two days y^e left Gou^v Answer—It was the fame you tell me he wrote to you. I am Exceeding forry the Gentilman we boath Named feems at prefent obnoxious as I agree with you fir y^t he would best answer the End you speak of and make y^e Country that way easy. I thankfully observe your Cousan¹ for my better peace and Comfort in the Court and hope your Kind Indevours to promote it will meet with suffers.

I am told from marble Head y' M' Hooper pretty safe unless brother dolton Can have it, but yt M' Bowe who has been at boston is pressered to any by ye gou' I am glad to hear you are Coming this way hope it will Not be

long, Mr Wood is going

1 Caution.

I must Close and am Your Obedent Humble frvt and friend John Choate

103

A Bill

Nov 18 To 1 Muff£2.10. 0	£19.190
d° 1 doz Porringers 2. 5. –	4.15 —
1759 Feb ^y 6 To 1 box Spectacles	1.4—
Exeter June 6. 1757 £12 $\operatorname{Hamp^e Curr^y}$	4.10
Tramp Curr	4.10
	30. 8. 0
To Cash pd Mr Alifon for mende fhirts	
& Stockings to Jan 19. 1759 £ 3.12. 9	
p ^d for 3¾ y ^{ds} Cloth @ 8.8/	
& 5 y ds Shalloon at 18/ 36.——	
p ^d for mending Shoes 0.10—	
for a p ^r Boots 4 Doll ^{rs} 9 $1\frac{1}{2}$ y ^{ds} Flannell @ $18/$ 1. 7. 0	50. 9. 9
·	80.17. 9

To 3 papers Ink Powder @ 6/ £ 0.18. 0 6 Spelling Books @ 7/6 2. 5.— 1 Box Spectacles 1. 5.—	4. 8.— £85. 5. 9
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	2. 5.— 1. 2. 6 0.14.—
3 doz Corks @ 3/	1. 4. 0
	£90.11. 3
March 15 By Ballance due to Joseph Gilman	£ 8. 0. 0
Carr ^d to the Debit of M ^{rs} Mary Gilmans New Acc ^t	82.11. 3
D 4 35 1 450 4550	£90.11. 3
Boston March 15 th 1759 Errors & Excepted Joseph	
	Gilman
104	
$104 \\ \text{Bofton Novem}^{\text{r}}$	2ª 1759
Bofton Novem ^r Acc ^t Sundry Goods sent M ^{rs} Mary Gilman P Ca James viz —	2ª 1759
Bofton Novem ^r Acc ^t Sundry Goods sent M ^{rs} Mary Gilman P Ca James viz — 1/2 Doz Pint Basons£ 1.17. 6	2ª 1759
	2ª 1759
104 Bofton Novem ^r Acc ^t Sundry Goods sent M ^{rs} Mary Gilman P Ca James viz — ½ Doz Pint Basons. £ 1.17. 6 ½ ^m Hobbs. 0. 9. 0 ½ ^m 14 Oz Tax. 0. 7. 0 ⅓ doz coarse Sieves. 2.—	2ª 1759
	2ª 1759
Bofton Novem ^r Acc ^t Sundry Goods sent M ^{rs} Mary Gilman P Ca James viz — ½ Doz Pint Basons £ 1.17. 6 ½ Medical Hobbs. 0. 9. 0 ½ Medical Hobbs. 0. 7. 0 ½ doz coarse Sieves 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ Medical Hobbs. 2. 8. 7 6 Medical Hobbs. 3. 14. 8.— 2½ doz Tiles @ 28/ 3.10.—	2ª 1759
Bofton Novem ^r Acc ^t Sundry Goods sent M ^{rs} Mary Gilman P Ca James viz — ½ Doz Pint Basons £ 1.17. 6 ½ Mobbs. 0. 9. 0 ½ Mobbs. 0. 7. 0 ½ doz coarse Sieves. 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ Mobbs. 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ Mobbs. 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ Mobbs. 3. 6.— 1 Oz Thread Nobbs. 3. 6.— 1 doz mid ^g black Beads 0.12.—	2ª 1759
Bofton Novem ^r Acc ^t Sundry Goods sent M ^{rs} Mary Gilman P Ca James viz — ½ Doz Pint Basons. £ 1.17. 6 ½ ^m Hobbs. 0. 9. 0 ½ ^m 14 Oz Tax. 0. 7. 0 ½ doz coarse Sieves. 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ th @ 6/6 12. 8. 7 6¹h Whalebone @ 48/ 14. 8.— 2½ doz Tiles @ 28/ 3.10.— 1 Oz Thread N° 60. 3. 6.— 1 doz mid ^s black Beads 0.12.— 6 Silk Laces @ 5/6. 1.13.—	2ª 1759
Bofton Novem ^r Acc ^t Sundry Goods sent M ^{rs} Mary Gilman P Ca James viz — ½ Doz Pint Basons £ 1.17. 6 ½ Mobbs. 0. 9. 0 ½ Mobbs. 0. 7. 0 ½ doz coarse Sieves. 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ Mobbs. 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ Mobbs. 2.—— Loaves Sugar 38½ Mobbs. 3. 6.— 1 Oz Thread Nobbs. 3. 6.— 1 doz mid ^g black Beads 0.12.—	2ª 1759

Tagging 3 Laces	0. 1. 8 3. 3	
O Tenor	£43. 0.—	
Lawful	l Money	£5.14. 8

JOSEPH GILMAN to Tristram Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bofton 12th October 1759

Dear Brother

Doubtless before this reaches you, you will hear of the furrender of Canada to the British army. A vessel arrived here this morning in feven days from Louisburg. The Master informs that, the 15th September Gen Wolfe with five thousand men engaged Monsfr Levy with fifteen thousand, about 3 miles from their intrenchments. Our army received three Fires from the Enemy before they returned any. Our first fire was general and very heavy, put the French cavalry in great confusion—they being in front drove back on the infantry & by that means broke their Lines—& put them all to flight. Our people purfued them fo closely that when they jumped into their trenches, our men leaped on their backs & by Sword & Bayonet foon cleared the trenches, and drove the enemy into the city. The brave Gen¹ Wolfe is killed. He received two wounds before he received his mortal one which was through the Heart. He lived to fee the Trenches cleared holding his Bowells in with his hand & spiriting up his men. All the officers give him the greatest character. He was but twenty-eight years old as I hear.1

I have not yet heard the particulars. An Express sailed from Louisburg for this place thirty hours before this vessel sailed, but is not yet arrived. Collo Monckton has lost his nose and is wounded in the Bowells. He was the second in command. Townsend, on account of his being disabled, has taken command. Vaudreuil surrendered the city and Canada on the terms proposed by Townsend, what those terms are, I cannot tell. 'Tis said we lost five

¹ General Wolfe was nearly thirty-four.

hundred men, and the French fifteen hundred. Tuefday next in the forenoon Religious exercifes are to be performed in the feverall churches in Town, — in the afternoon the militia raifed — in the Evening the Town Illuminated.

Your Loving Brother

J Gilman

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John Choate to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Defember 3^d 1759

Dear fir

finding by your Last letter yt all I had faid in mine had not Relieved your disponding Apprehentions with Refpect to the french, their one day prevailing in their defign of univerele monarchy, I fend you Doctor Mayhews two Sermons on ocation of our Late fucfeses to See what they Can do upon you. It would Sir be as vaine as Needless for me to make aney Remarks on them to a person of your uncomon defernment, but I Can hardly help acquainting you of one of my wifes making, tho she selldom makes I mean exprese aney as aney mans works.

As I was the other Evening Reading to her that part of his Second Sermon where he fancies to him felfe that the Reduction of all Canada will be allmost the Certin Consequences of taking Quebeck, and that Numerous Kingdoms and a most Extensive Empire would groo up here as a part of this Conquest She Could not help Exprefsing her aftonishment at the Docters indiscretion in mentioning fuch tender points with fo very little Gard. But when I Came to what he by a foul of prophecey fays Relating to the fuller Joyes of futer Ages on this ocation and introdufes the old Sire as informing his Son at 3 or 400 hundred years hence of this Event that happened us many years before, the faid it Reminded her of an old weaver the had heard of who in a like mood of fanciing as he fatt in his loome fell aCrying and being asked the Reson faid it was because he Emagined that his dafghter would Play the whore and have a Child and that the Child would Run under his loome and that as his fluttle was Runing the thread would brake and the fluttele fall down and with its picked end putt out one of the Childs Eyes.

you will Eafily fee fir yt the Effects on thefe two Gentilemens mind was as different as Joye and Sorrow is But yet as the principles, affections and probability of boath where much the fame the Comparason may be prety Good. tho in sum other parts of ye performance I think many warriours and very few preachers Could have Equaled the doctor in the Judment of your most obliged frind and very Humble Svt

John Choate Colle Hale

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Joseph Gilman to Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston June 2^d, 1760.

Hond Madm

Yours P Mr Rogers came safe to hand & of him I recd five Dollars tho he tells me he is not certain they are for me. I should have been at Exeter the beginning of last M° but was prevented by Mr Savage's being sick he is now so well as to be out and I expect to see you in about a Week. I should be much obligd to you if you would collect as much money for me as you can conveniently by the time I come up as I shall stand in need of £700 or 800£ this old tenor which I cannot possibly do without. Three of our London Ships arrived here last week and two more are daily expected which will be an advantage to me as Goods were pretty scarce before the arrival of these Ships—I am sorry the Cart boxes are too fmall, I was afraid they were too large — I will send you a sett larger P first vefsell there must be some mistake in the price of the pans you mention at least I cannot buy them so now by the Ton. The price of a large Bible without the Apochrypha is £9, O T the peas I sent cost 5/

I remain with love to my Brothers Your Dutifull Son Joseph Gilman.

108

In Boston Vital Statistics in the "Intentions of Marriage" we find "Joseph Gilman and Jane Tyler, July 31, 1760." In the "Marriages" is the date of their mar-

riage, August 14, 1760. Joseph Gilman was twenty-two at the time. This record has been found since the publication of the Noyes-Gilman Ancestry.

This letter evidently should have been dated 1760-1 and they had been married about six months. It seems strange that anyone who was in later life so accurate as Joseph Gilman should have made so many mistakes in writing, spelling and dating as he did in his younger days.

JOSEPH GILMAN to Tristram Gilman.

Dear Brother Boston Feb^y 7th 1760

I should have wrote you by last Post, but expected Mr Fowle would have gone out of Town before this time my Jenny is now launching into the eternal World She looks on Death as a friend rather than Foe, as it carries her to her God & Saviour who is dearer to her than any her dearest relatives in this world, she tells me she can part with me with pleasure, tho' she dearly loves me, to go to Christ who is far better - I am now my Dear Brother in the School of Affliction I beg your prayers that God would instruct me in it & carry me thro' it, tis hard my Brother, tis very hard to bear, but I beg & desire that I may be able to resign her to God, who gave her to me — I cant write particularly, 'tis too much for my weak mind to bear, I desire you would give my Duty with my Jennys to Mother, I should have wrote her by this opportunity but am not able thro' distrefs of mind—There is no danger of the small Pox in Town now tho' twas generally tho't it would spread sometime ago—I hope you have recd the Chest of Goods of Mr Fowle as he tells me he gave Orders to his wife to deliver it, please to examin the cont^{ts} & see that it agrees with the Invoice I sent you — if you have not already reed it I beg you would make no delay as Mr F has a particular Charge to deliver them from Mr Flucker - my Jenny gives her kindest love to you & Brother Josiah, and hopes to meet you in the happy realms of Light where perfect Friendship & happiness is tasted without any alloy—I am your Affectte

Brother Joseph

Col. Peter Gilman lost his second wife, Dorothy (Sherburne, Rymes, Rogers) Taylor, as the following letter tells, in 1761, when he was fifty-eight years old, and very soon afterwards consoled himself by marrying a widow for the third time, Mrs. Moses Prince (Jane Bethune) of Boston. Mrs. Prince had a son, Samuel, and two daughters, Jane and Deborah. When Mrs. Prince became Mrs. Peter Gilman, her daughter Jane was already engaged to Rev. Chandler Robbins, of Plymouth, and they were married on October 8, 1761, probably at Col. Peter's home, the old Gilman Garrison House.

Col. Peter Gilman to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Dear broth^r Exeter Feb^{ry} 2^d 1761.

This Brings you the Sorrowfull news of the Death of my Dear wife She Departed this Life Sabath Evening the 25 Jan^{ry} and is gone I Trust To keep an Everlasting Sabaoth with our Glorious Redemer. She was always Pleasant in Life and Refig^d To Gods will in death and is now hapy I Trust with the Lord. But D^r Broth^r the waves Role heavy over me I am the man of Sorrow and acquainted with Greaf I mourn Like a dove the abfense of my Dear mate but ah She Gone for Ever Gone no more her Cherfull Countenance to Refresh my fainting Sprrit Adieu my D^r Broth^r pray o pray for your poor

Depresa Aflicted & very Sorrowfull Broth

Peter Gilman

P S my Duty To mother who I Trust heartly simpathizes with me under my affliction & Love To Sister y as above

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Col. Peter Gilman to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

D' Broth' Ipswich Sep' 9th 1761
I have but Just Time To Tell you That I am Lately married To M's Prince of Boston a very agreeable Lady

1 Mrs. John Gilman, who had been Mrs. Robert Hale, Sr.

and am now In my way home I Trust I shall be again happy in That Relation—pleafe To prefent my Duty To Mother & Sister and Accept the Same from your affectionate Broth &c

Peter Gilman

111

As Josiah Gilman had now attained his majority and Joseph had made a beginning in commerce, they returned to Exeter and entered into partnership with Nathaniel Folsom. They had a general store in Exeter. Their advertisement, as preserved in the Gilman Genealogy, shows a varied assortment of goods, "Crimson, fearlet, black, blue & cloth color'd Broad Cloths, Baize, Plufhes, Swanfkins, Velvets, Ratteens, Allapeens, Tandems, Bibles, Felt, Caftor, Beaveret & Beaver Hatts, Chizzelles, Tea Kittells, Hour Glaffes, Weft India Rum, Molafses, Bohea Tea, Lamp Oyl &c &c &c." As we shall see later, they also did an exporting and importing business in sailing vessels.

Memorandum of agreement between Nath Folsom Joseph & Josiah Gilman Octo 19 1761 —

1. We agree to put in equal Stock and each to draw an equal proportion of Profitts or to sustain equally the Lofses which may accrue while we are in Partnership.

2. We agree that the Partnership shall subsist for Seven Years neither of us to leave the Company in lefs time unlefs either of us should remove out of Town.—

3. We agree that neither of us shall carry on any seperate private Busine's in Trade either in or out of Town. With regard to any sheemes of consequence, such as Bargains, Contracts, Building of Ships, or venturing to Sea shall not be prosecuted by any one of the Company without the full consent of the other two.

Nathel Folsom

Joseph Gilman Jofiah Gilman

¹ Gilman Genealogy (1869), 87.

Col. Robert Hale had at this time living with him at Beverly, his mother, Mrs. John Gilman; his second wife, Elizabeth (Clarke) Hale, and his widowed daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Ives, with her two children, Robert Hale Ives, aged seventeen and Rebecca Ives, fifteen. Rebecca visited in the home of her half-uncle, Samuel Gilman, Jr., at Exeter, where there was a daughter, Sarah, of her own age. The jokes in these letters are about Joseph Gilman, whom Rebecca married in September, 1763. Sarah Gilman married Joseph's younger brother, Josiah, two months later.

Samuel Gilman, Jr., to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Newbury Oct^o 27th 1761

Dear Bror

I thank you for y' kind fav' Last week, & Perticularly for y' fine complemt on my Daughter weh I can Return with the utmost Sincerity on y' Amiable Grandaughter with whom we Parted allmost with tears; but as I am not alltogether free from ensuasiam Sompthing within (as the Quakers say) tells me She will one Day be near me, & very, very happy! I'll say no more at Prefent, heaven Blefs you my Dear Br' & Excufe my adding as 'tis allmost five of the Clock & Bound home this Night, Pray Deliver the Enclos'd to our Dear mother, & M''s Phillips, as one Letter is from my wife the other from my Daughter—Accept the Regards of Both, as well as all Possiable affection from Y' Very, Very, Affectionate Brother,

Sam¹ Gilman jr—
y° know I am apt to talk of things Long before I Put
them in Execution, I therefore tell you, on the word of a
Newhamp° man that I Intend, you a Vifsit between this
& the Year one thouf'd Seven hundred & sixty two Vale
P. S. I came fr° home ½ after ten—

I Long more to see yo then Ever, Pray supply yo want of seeing yo by yo most kind & agreeable Epistles—I wont tell yo I'm in the utmost hurry

yrs ut supraa S G

Samuel Gilman, Jr., to Col. Robert Hale, Beverly, Mass.

Newbury 11th Dec^r 1761—

Dear Brother,

I've but Just time here to Inform you for the Satifsfaction of our Dear mother that I Left all well at home this morning & hope to find them so this Evening tho' had I known it wou'd have been so cold before I came from home, Shou'd not have Attempted It this Day we've nothing New, health & Peace thro' the Divine Favor attends us. — I Enclose a Letter to your Amiable from the Cabinet Counceller who [takes] her Pen & Ink as soon as She hears I [torn]ound this way, as It contains a whole Sheet Suppose It contains matters of Importance In Love affairs, & when I Request a Sight of her Scribling I am Anfwar'd with a Pray Sir, 'tis only a Line to Cousin Becca &c, & m^r is allways at hand to Syth to her or Enquire News-I am my Dear Bro with my Duty to my mother, my Complemts to Sifter, Mrs Ives, & Bror Sami Gilman — Mrs Beca, yr Very affect

m^r Joseph Gilman had a Vefsell Arriv'd in w^{ch} he was a Q^t Concern'd in Good Safty fr^o S^t Kitts Last week, all that know him Love him & can but Rejoyce at his Prosperity—he has too much Senfe to mention any thing of Bufinefs in Good company—Vale

S G

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Joseph Gilman to Samuel P. Savage, Boston, Mass.

Exeter 14th April 1762

Sir

I have now to acknowledge the rec^t of your favors of the 25th & 28th ult^o. We had the pleasure this morn^g to receive a Letter from Captⁿ Marble acquainting us of his safe arrival at Antigua, on which we give the underwriters joy—Cap^t Marble tells us he believed he should not go to S^t Martins or Anguilla as he had heard Salt was very scarce & dear at both them Islands, but as he was not certain how he should proceed as he had been arriv'd but a little time when he wrote, I shall be oblig'd if you'l

make the following Insurance for acct of Folsom Gilman & Gilman—viz Seven hundred pounds Lawful mony at & from Antigua to St Martins & Anguilla & at and from thence to any one Port from New York to Piscataqua inclusive, on the Sloop Dolly Sam' Marble Mast, on the Vefsell only, as he is uncertain as to his Cargo—you write me the above will be done at Fourteen P Cent to return four P Ct. in case she does not go to either of the above Islands—and I suppose the underwriters will return Two P Ct in case he goes to but one of them, indeed by his writing I do not think it probable he will go to either of them, as I have said above, but chuse to have them inserted lest he should—we are in hopes the above will be done something lower than what you write me, but leave the affair wholly with you, as I know you will get it done at the lowest rate—Cap^t Marble writes us he fhould sail at soonest some time the beginning of this month, if not disappointed, but should write us more particularly by the next Vefsell, so that he is fully in time I am &c

To M^r Sam¹ P. Savage at the Insurance Office Bofton

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This is the first of a series of business letters between Joseph Gilman's firm and his brother-in-law, Robert H. Ives, who was captain of merchant vessels and frequently took cargoes for Folsom, Gilman & Gilman.

Capt. Robert H. Ives to Folsom, Gilman & Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Bridge Town Barbados March ye 9th 1765.

Gentlemen

I have just now Contracted with Capt Richard Salter of the Schooner Betfey, Belonging to Capt Adams of Portsmouth, and Bound there, to Carry my produce Viz: a hogd of Rum for 12£ ham Money—I am Sorry that it is out of my Power to take it my Self but the price will not Brake before we Sail for Tortuga which is tomorro it is thought it will Brake at /18d—I have on Board two

hog^d of Rum and 25£ Cur^{ie} Cash on Cargo—and there remains with M^r Daniel 309£ 11^s 1^d Cur^{ie} to be Shipt in Cap. Salters all in Rum, Except five Barr¹ of Sugar—Wee make up a Large fleet for Tortuga and many Bound to Boston therefore I Should be Glad if you would leave Orders for me with Jonathan & John Emmory in Boston as Difpatch is Necessary.

Your Humb^e Serv^t. Rob^t Hale Ives.

This my third

New Castle 25th April 1765.

Gentlemen

Cap^t Rich^d Salter is now arriv^d who brings this letter. I sent Cap^t Sargent on bord—he has for us 28 hh^d Rum & 7 bb Suger tomorrow Cap^t Salter I suppose will begin to Discharge and hope som of you will be down to Recieve y^r part of the Cargo.

I am $y^r \xrightarrow{H^{ble} Ser^t}$ Jos. Frost.

Mefseurs Folsom Gilman Gilman & Frost March^{ts} in Piscataqua.

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Samuel P. Savage to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston Feby 19. 1766.—

I find a Ballance on my Office Books due to you of £37.15.5½. I also find a Note paid N— Wheelwright Esq^r for money borrow^d of him for you for £50 odd I should be obligd when you come to Town the same may be fettled.—

I have for some time past left the Town and have sat down on a small Farm in Weston, where if I can spend my few rem^g y^{rs} in Peace detatchd from Buftle & Noise shall esteem myself happy.—I meet with vast Difficulty in fetled my Office Accts—and was it not for the kindness of my worthy Friend M^r Bass—could scarce expect to bring them to a Close.

My kind respects to Mrs Gilman

I am with Esteem dr Sirs Yr Frd & Sert

S. P. Savage



JUDGE JOSEPH GILMAN From a silhouette



Capt. Robert H. Ives to Folsom, Gilman & Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to acquaint you of my proceedings. I ariv⁴ hear the 29th of Last month, but could not get my Vefsl up the River untill the 4th Ins^t by reason of its being the dead of the Nip—have now got about half my Cargo on Shoure, and expect the rest of it there in 3 or 4 days. I believe the price of Lumber to be about four pound fiveteen Shillings p^r Tho⁴.—I can not at preasent tell weather the Brigg will be Sold or not, there is all-most as many Brooms, at the Ships mast heads,¹ as there is Ships at the Quay; If she should not be sold I soppose Mr James will put her up for Boston, & the Piscataqua; and I hope, we shall get away by the first of October, hope I shall be able to give you a more particular account, by [the] Nex opportunity, which will be in about ten days, by Cap^t Welch to Boston.

From Your humble Serv^t

Rob^t Hale Ives.

Bristol 2 August ye 8th - 1766 -

118

Capt. Robert H. Ives to Folsom, Gilman & Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Gentlemen

Finding the Brigg would not sell, we this day put her up for Boston and Piscataqua, but at present can not tell which. I shall go to first, Mr James tells me that he shall put on Board 60 or 70 Tuns of Salt and if he Can, will fill the rest up with dry goods, Freight is an Article verry hard to come at here, as their is so many Vefsels waiting for it—I hope if you are providing another Cargo of Lumber, you will take Care not to have it exceed 12 Inches wide, for you not only save the Bounty but it best

A broom at the masthead meant that the ship was for sale.

² Bristol, England.

answers the Markett,—hope we shall be able to Sail from here by the Last of September—meine time Shall make all the dispatch in my Power—

I Conclude Your Most hum Sert—

Rob^t Hale Ives

Bristol Aug^t 23^d—1766

To Beff 2.16

Mefseurs: Folsom Gilman &

Gilman

Pr favour Cap Welch Via Boston $egin{array}{c} \operatorname{Merch^{ts}} & & \\ \operatorname{at} & & \\ \operatorname{Exeter} & & \end{array}$

Newhamshire

119

Capt. Robert H. Ives to Folsom, Gilman, Gilman & Frost, Exeter, N. H.

Bristol Sept ye 26th 1766.

Gentlemen

In my Last by Cap^t Welch I inform^d you of my takeing freight for Boston and Piscataqua, and expected to Sail the last of September but have been disapointed by reason of the Nails, which I was to take, was not made: I,ve got on board eighty tuns of corse Salt, which I thought might answer your end better; than fine Salt or Coales and about 10 or 12 Tuns of goods on Board, & shall get the rest on Board as soon as possible. but am afraid, not before the 10th of next Month and then shall proceed immediately for Boston—Lumber goes off verry slow, as there is great quantity imported lately from Norway—Your Cargo has the name of the best that has ever been imported from North America—I hope the next account you have from your Brigg^t will be by

Your humble Servant Rob' Hale Ives.
N. B. No Vefsels arived from Boston or Piscataqua since

I have been here.

Elias Ladd to Folsom, Gilman & Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

octo

durham — 1st — 1766

Mager Folsom & gilmans

gentlemen I think not to bring the beef to Exeter that I talkt ofe sence I understand that cash bares the quickest market so I have sold the oxen and am to have the money in twenty days the man is very sponceble I think so as soon as I geet it I will com & bring it—& you shall have that at the market price So I depends upon seing you paid hansumly before my note is a year old—

gentlemen your humble servent

Elias Ladd

To Mayger folsom or Either of his partners at Exeter

121

Capt. Robert H. Ives to Folsom, Gilman & Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston, Dec. ye 20th 1766.

Gentlemen

I Receiv^d yours of the 15th Wednsday Last wherin you advise me to proceed immediatly to Portsmouth I did not understand by you weather you ment to have your Salt Sold here or not but I think it can not Answer at Piscataqua, have Sold about 15^{hh} at 12^s/ but Shall not get more than 10^s/ for the Rest. For the sale of Dispatch I shall Sell all to 100^{hh} this day which I shall reserve for Ballast.

I shall take care to imbrace the first favorable opportunity to get round to Portsmouth as the wheather is verry uncerten Your hum Sert R. Hale Ives.

122

Col. Robert Hale died at Beverly, March 20, 1767, after

a lingering illness, aged sixty-five. He left an estate amounting to £2,452. old tenor. The annuity to his widow of £16 must have absorbed almost all of it. His daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Ives, died a few months later, October 18, 1767, aged forty-two. His widow survived him twenty-eight years and lived in Boston.

Joseph Gilman to Capt. Robert H. Ives, Beverly, Mass.

Exeter 24 March 1769

Dear Brother

Your not settling & paying off your Sisters part of your Grandfathers Estate has been a great damage to me. You may remember when you were here last Spring, I told you I owed money in Boston & depended on paying it out of what I received of you, as Executor to the Estate. On your assurance you would speedily Settle the Estate and pay me your Sisters part, I engaged the money to be paid foon—not doubting I shou'd receive it of you; I waited sometime and then took a journey to Beverly on purpose but you were gone to Boston before I arrived.

I see by the Boston Paper you are enter'd from the West Indies. I hope you have had a prosperous Voyage and that you and Family are well—shou'd be glad of a Line from you, in which you will let me know when it will suit to finish our affairs, or when I shall see you at Beverly to settle them—I am your Sincere

Friend & Brother

P. S. Your Sisters Love to you

& mine to sifter

Joseph Gilman

123

Nicholas Pike to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

York 27th May 1769

My dear Couzins -

This accompanies the Books you lent me last Fall, for the Loan of which am greatly oblig'd to you—since my last, have been very poorly, occasion'd I suppose by my Schools, which for five Months, were from 9 o'Clock A M. to the same Hour P M.—But why do I give you so particular an Account of my own Concerns, when you deign neither to enquire after them nor even to acquaint me of your own Welfare? However this Difference between us, I will own, that I am under Obligations to you, which you are not to me—& therefore am far from thinking your Neglect will exculpate mine—last Week had the Melancholly News of Couzin Sammy's Death, & wish it may have a suitable Effect on us all—A Line, but more especially a Visit from you wou'd chear the Heart of your cordial Friend

& Affectionate Couzin Nich° Pike ¹

Mrs Pike begs the Acceptance of her best Regards —

Joseph Gilman's public career began with the pre-Revolutionary excitements, into which he threw himself with ardor. It is rather noteworthy that he did not sign the engagement to suppress disorder caused by the "infamous Stamp Act," which was signed by most of his family, including Col. Peter Gilman. On March 25, 1770, there was a town meeting at which a petition was presented on the subject of encouraging home manufactures and discountenancing importation of foreign goods, especially tea. A committee was chosen consisting of Nathaniel Folsom, John Phillips, Nicholas Gilman, Samuel Folsom, Joseph Gilman and Enoch Poor to inquire of the representatives "what legal and constitutional measures have been taken by the General Assembly of this province for the redress of our grievances . . . and if any measures be advisable, to give their Repre-

¹ Son of Rev. NICHOLAS GILMAN'S younger sister, Sarah, who married in 1730, Rev. James Pike, of Somersworth, N. H. Nicholas Pike published, in 1788, a "New and Complete System of Arithmetick."

sentatives Instructions to be by them observed at their next session."

The committee's report to Exeter was that the General Assembly had authorized the preparation of a letter to be signed by their speaker and to be presented to the king by their agent in England. The speaker, Col. Peter Gilman, had refused to sign it, as it did not express his personal views. The town therefore instructed their representatives to see that such a letter was signed and sent at once. Col. Peter Gilman signed the second one that was brought to him, but it is thought that his loyalist views did not change, for in 1771 he ceased to be a member of the Assembly.

At the time of the following letter, Joseph Gilman had been married about eight years and had one son, Benjamin Ives Gilman, born in 1766. Mrs. Gilman's brother, Capt. Robert H. Ives, was married in the same year to Sarah Bray of Salem. They had four children: Elizabeth, who later married Thomas Bancroft; Thomas Poynton, who married Hope Brown; and Charlotte and Robert Hale, who both died unmarried.

The "brother of Mr. Gilman" mentioned below was Rev. Tristram Gilman, who had been settled over the church at North Yarmouth, Me., since 1769. He was one of the first trustees of Bowdoin College.

"Aunt Lee" was Elizabeth Ives, aunt of Mrs. Joseph Gilman, who married (1) Richard Lee, of Salem.

The visit of the royal governor, Sir John Wentworth, in 1722, which Mrs. Gilman writes about, must have been somewhat embarrassing to the officers who were training their men in anticipation of possible difficulties with the home government. It is said that Col. Peter Gilman added a new front to his house in order to entertain the governor suitably.

Mrs. Joseph Gilman to Capt. Robert H. Ives, Beverly, Mass.

Exeter Oct^{to} th 10^t 1772 —

Dear Brother

I have not had an oper to write Since I Received your Last kind Letter of invitation, it is Needless to tell you that I was Greatly Difsapointed in not going at the appointed time you my Dear Brother that know how fond I am of visiting my native place & Relations will Easily Conceive of it, We all made Great Dependence upon going, but Every thing Conspired to prevent us, I think I never Saw Brother Josiah So set upon going any where Since I knew him. I Suppose it was partly oweing to his being a Brother officer it is Natural you know for people of the same profession to have a peculear Simpathatic Regard for Each other, we were full of Company at Both houses mr Gilmans Brother was up which was a principal hinderance he Lives at Such a distance that it is verry Seldom he can visit us & they that he would be Troubld if they went out of town when he was here & mr Pike & wife was here m^r Gilmans only Aunt & another minister & wife Daughter to mrs Pike so that we Could not Leave home with any propriety Collo Folsom did not wont inclination but he was just Return'd from a Fatiguing journey to Coos however I belive if Either of the Brothers his partners Could have gone you would have seen him at Beverly upon so agreable an occasion, you Cant amagin how pleas'd they are with your having a Comission. I Cant Conceive what the reason is, unless it is because they are so Excessive fond of millitary affairs that they are Glad to hear of its prosperity any where & think that you will be a means of Reviveing there Beloved art in a place where it was almost Extinct. hope my Dear Brother will Excuse my Dwelling so Long upon one Subject our Sex you men say is given to prolixity & I freely Confess your sister is one instance of it however my Dear I am in a hurry as I always am when I write, & have not time to put my Ideas in so few words as I Should be Glad to both for your Ease & my own

Sattifaction—I had a verry agreable visit from our aunt Lee this summer, it Refreshed my Spiritses more than I can express, I was in a poor state of health but the unexpected Sight of her & Polly Really made me forget my infirmitys — if I had Time I would Divert you & Sister a Little with a Detail of some things that Transpird while they were here Relative to parson Rogers, you would have Laught if you could have seen him Apeing the Gallant, mustring up all his old Fashion Congees & Compliments that he us'd to practise forty or fifty years ago not neglecting the most triffling piece of Complysance that he thot would make him appear Sprightly & young, but you shall have the whole afair at Large when you & Sally Comes for Come you must my Dear Brother & Sister. dont say no I cant bear a Denial your Friends here all of them are impatient to see you both here as well as I indeed my Dear I Shall hardly have Courage to go to Beverly again if Sister dont Come, I dont think She will ever be able to Leave home better than now, do pray oblige us — Come when the Governer Comes to Review the Regement perhaps there will be something to be seen that will amuse & please you at Least there cant be so much Expected here as in more populous places but they are taking Considerable pains to have there men behave properly, your Brother has been planing the Review & marshalling of them in order as they are to stand & if the officers & men get there several parts perfect they will make a very pretty appearance —

Coll° Folsom is to make the Entertainment for his Exelency & the officers & Gentlemen he is very Desirous to have you come then if you can possibly, but dont Let there be any ifs in the way, mr hale offers to go & wait upon you here if you will come & that will be of any service. I believe it will be the week after next & I dont know but sooner your Brother or I will write a Line & Let you know the Day the Governer has not Determined yet but they Expect it will be fixed very soon—adieu my

Dear brother & Sister & accept of the affeca

Regards of your Sister

Rebecca Gilman

P S Capt Gilman Desired the favor to write a poscript to this but he is not come & I cant waite any Longer for

him as Sammy is impatient—I cant pretend to say what he would have wrote but I can say thus much that he will be heartly Glad to see you & your Spouse at Exeter mr Gilman sends a deal of Love to you Both & the Little ones Benja Desires his Duty to uncle & Aunt & Love to Betsey & Tommy he says he dont know the other with the Strange name—

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Rev. Tristram Gilman to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, Mass.

Dear Brother North Yarm^o Octo^r 20. 1774.—

After I had wrote to Mother I thôt it might be satisfactory to you to know the State of your Note to me of which we were in Doubt when I was at Exeter. It is as follows, The Note is for £53,2,6 Jan. 12. 1770

The Payments are, April 2. 1771. 13.. 5.. 8

June 1. 12.16.

May 26. 1772 At which Time I

have a Receit in full from you... 12.. 0.. 2

Novem^r 1773, Sundries...... 2.. 7.11

Septem^r 1774 Sundries...... 4.. 3.. 6

44..13.. 3

it.—I hope you & your Family are in Health. Mine & my Wifes Love to You & Sister.—

I am your affectionate Brother

But we hope a kind Providence will interpose & prevent

Tristram Gilman

Col. Peter Gilman to Judge Theodore Atkinson, Portsmouth, N. H.

Hond Sr

I Rec^a the Sumons you Sent & should have Atended this day but being Very unwell & it being Stormey wether makes it unfafe for me to Journey today. you Pleafe to make my Excufe to his Excell^{cy} I am your most

obedient Humble Ser^t

Exeter Dec^r 15 1774

Peter Gilman

On His Majestys Sarvice

The Honble

Theodore Atkinson Esq^r¹ At Portsm°

127

Samuel Folsom's Tavern is noted as the scene of Gen. Washington's stay in Exeter in 1789, when he was received by Hon. Nicholas Gilman. The "Committey" for which the following bill was incurred cannot be identified. Dr. John Giddinge married Mehetable, daughter of Col. Peter Gilman.

Coⁿ Hurd Doct Gigdinge Capt Emery & M^r Joseph Gilman 1776 a Committey to Samⁿ Folsom Dr —

January 10 To a Bole & ½ of Punch 2/ one
Bole of Cheary 11 ^d £0211
the 11 To Punch 1/4 Cheary Toddey 11 ^d 02 3
the 12 To 2 Boles of Punch 2/8d Cheary Todey
$6^{d} \text{ Gin } 3^{d} \dots 0.3.5$
the 13 To Punch 2/8d Cheary Todey 11d 03 7
the 15 To flip & Grog 8d the 16 To Punch & Flip
1/ 01 8
the 17 To Chearrey Todey 6 ^d flip 4 ^d Coffey for 2
$1/7^{d}$ 025

¹ Royalist Chief Justice of New Hampshire.

The 18 flip 4 ^a the 19 To Punch & Toddey 2/ the		
20 Punch & Toddey 1/	03	4
The 22 to one Bole of Loofe Suger Todey	00	9
the 23 Punch & flip 1/ The 24d to Punch & flip		
$1^{ m s}/8^{ m d}$		8
25 to Punch & flip 1/8d the 26d to Flip & Todey		
$1/1^{ m d}$		9
February 14 The Committey one mug of Syder.		
23 to Punch 1/4d March 9d to Punch & Todey		
$1/10^{\mathrm{d}}$		2
the 13 to Punch & Todey 1/11d the 15 to Punch		
& Cherey Todey 2/4 ^d		3
the 19 to Punch 1s/6d the 28d to Punch 1/6d apl 1		
To Punch 1/6 ^d	04	6
	£1.16	11

Exeter aprel 5 1776 Erros Excepted

Pr Samel Folsom

Recd of I Emery one fhilling & Sixpence
of Joseph Gilman Eleven fhillings & Tenpence
d John Giddinge Esq Eleven fhillings & Tenpence
Samel Folsom

After the Boston Tea-Party, January 3, 1774, a sympathetic meeting was held in Exeter which adopted patriotic resolutions and appointed a committee to correspond with the other towns of New Hampshire and to prevent the sale of tea in Exeter. Joseph Gilman was one of the five members. On December 26th of the same year, he was put on the committee to see that the non-importation agreement was strictly adhered to. This must have practically ruined the business of Folsom, Gilman & Gilman and accordingly we hear nothing more about the firm.

Joseph Gilman's Commission as County Treasurer.

State of New Hampshire

In the House of Representatives Sept^r 19th 1776

Voted That Joseph Gilman of Exeter be & hereby is Appointed Treasurer for the County of Rockingham and that he be not Qualified to act in said Office untill he give bond in the Sum of Two thousand pounds with Two Sureties in one thousand Pounds Each, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the use of Said County For the Faithfull Discharge of his Said Duty and Trust.

P White Speaker

Sent up by M^r Lovewell In Council Eodem Die read & concurred E Thompson Sec^y A Copy Examined by E Thompson Sec^y

129

We find in the New Hampshire state papers record that Joseph Gilman served on two important committees in 1776. One, with Nicholas Gilman and Nathaniel Folsom to take care of prisoners from New York, empowered to draw upon the Treasury for £150, and the other, a committee of claims, with his brother Josiah and John Taylor Gilman, who was afterwards governor of the state.

Report of the Committee appointed to examine Mr. Rollins' accounts, Joseph Gilman, chairman.

The Committee appointed to examine M^r Rollins's Account, Beg leave to report, That the said Account as now exhibited amounting to Nineteen Hundred Eighty one Pounds, six shillings and nine pence half penny is right Cast.—They further Report, that in the Article of 53 Blankets charged as paid Cap^t Winthrop Rowe's Company, six were supplyed by the Selectmen of Exeter.

1 MS. loaned by Theodore Gilman, of Yonkers, N. Y.

3,,12,,0

That receipts are produc'd for the Payment of £93.8.5 back Allowance, but it does not appear what sums were due no Orders from the Commifsary being produc'd, the payment of this Money was (in our humble Opinion) the proper Business of the Commissary—It appears that the Hon^{ble} Committee of Safety gave M^r Rollins Orders to procure One Hundred Coats for those Persons who lost their Cloaths at Bunker hill—The Sum of £150.5.9\$

150. 5.9½ paid James Hastie & others M^r Rollins informs the Committee was for Cloth & making the above Coats, what Number was made and deliver'd to the Soldiers does not appear.—

3. 9.0 That the Three Pounds nine shillings paid Garfield & Tapley for carting Fish & Boards from Salem there are no Vouchers for.

The account of Billeting Men under Col^o Reed amounting to £9.10.2 Cap^t H. Dearborn billeting his Company £15—Provisions deliver'd Cap^t Wentworths Company includ^g Balls, Flints & Knapsacks amounting to £24.10—and the Provisions for Cap^t Titcomb's Company amount^g to £11.2.7 The whole being

60. 2.9 £60.2.9 are proved to be paid by M^r Rollins, but it appears the Travel of these Companys are made up in the Rolls and paid by the Pay Master.—That of the six Blankets bought of M^r S Hall, M^r Rollins says two were delivered to Col^o Wyman, the other four to Soldiers unknown who lost theirs at Bunker Hill.—We find no Orders for purchasing Pouches, the Twenty six M^r Rollins paid Cap^t Shortridge

6. 1.4 for amount^g to £6.1.4 are made up in his Roll and the Money paid him by the Pay Master Mr Hobart.

That, of the £11.12/. charg'd as paid Jacob Cooper Com^{ny's} Clerk, a receipt is produc'd for Three Pounds only, further the Committee are of Opinion that it is properly the Commifsary's Business to pay his own Clerk—

That two Orders drawn by Capt Jonathan

Wentworth on the Committee of Safety 1.19.0 amounting to One Pound nineteen shillings are indors'd, but it does not appear who paid them.—

16. 6.4 Cap^t Scott to whom M^r Rollins paid £16.6.4 for billeting his Company was not then in the

Service of this State.

1. 8.0 That John Fors's receipt for Twenty eight shillings to purchase a Vice for himself, was to be deducted out of his Wages—

That as the Committee of Supplies have not settled their Accounts as a Committee, we cannot ascertain what Sum belongs to each of

them to account for -

And that M^r Rollins has given Credit for £110.10.6 receiv'd for Hides Sold.—Among M^r M^cGregore's Papers we find the following memorandum in his own Hand writing—Viz "Ichabod Rollins Esq^r receiv'd of Ebenezer

127.17.1 Hall £127.17-1 on the 18th September for

110.10.6 Hides.—

17. 6.7

In behalf of the Committee Joseph Gilman Chairman

Exeter 26th March 1777

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Elijah Hall to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Letter 2 Portsmouth Newhampshire July 18 1777 Sir you will Consider the Consequence of Erecting a works which will a mount to Near two thousand Lawful with out a Sufficent quantity of iron mine to Carey the workes on for fix or feven yeares I Cannot think it worth while to Set it up at that Plase for the land Carrig Being So grate & it will be Imposible to Supply the Iron mines By water Carrag. Nither of the mines that you fent down By Mr Hacket are Rich the one of them will anser which you Say is in a Spruse Swomp the other will Be of No use as it is Nothing more then a Sort of a tarres So I will Intirely leave it with you to detarmin the matter whether to send for the Bulder or not as my time is

intirely taken up in fitting out the Ranges fir I am Your most obedent & Humble servent

Elijah Hall.

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Joseph Gilman was made justice of the peace for Rockingham county, June 26, 1779.

Col. John Hurd to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 17th Sept: 1779.

Dear fir

I have y^r favor P Capt. Blodget of the 9th Curr^t. by w^{ch} I observe you had not rec^d my Letter wrote about the fame time last Week P one M^r Fullerton wⁿ I sent you a Sett of Chesterfields Letters just then come out—I have got the rest home & will send another Set by M^r Blodget if he can carry them, the others first Opp^o. the Difference of the bound Books are Sixteen Dollars, if you incline I can exchange a fett paying the Difference.

I'm sorry to hear of the unhappy & cruel Accident in Col^o Sherburne's Comp^a the Criminal will doubtlefs meet his Deferts—our penobscut Expedition we are all ashamed of & greatly chagrind at the Event as well as the people y^r way.

The General Court of this State are now fetting & have appointed a Committee as a Court of Inquiry to be held in Fanuil Hall, when Every one may have Opport to hear the Examinations—the Commodore bares the Blame at present & is under Arrest, tis certainly a most

disgraceful Affair.—

I rejoyce to hear by M^r Blodget that you've [rec]ov'd from y^r late Indisposition, w^{ch} M^r Wells informd [me of] a few days agoe & gave me trouble to know of hope M^{rs} Gilman holds out well, you've an excellent good Nurse in her. You & I ought to make much of so good Wives but M^{rs} Hurd is now a little unwell, having a fmall Touch of her old Disorder, & fearful it may lay her by—tho' I hope it will work of foon, when I intend bring^s her along as far as Exeter if she can hold out the Journey that we may have the pleasure of spend^s a few hours together. Interim with our best Regards to you & M^{rs} G. I am very cordialy y^r Friend & humb^s Serv^t.

J. Hurd

My regards to y' Broth', M' Hale & all Friends. If I dont send the Spanish Grammer will bring it along w' I come.

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Dr. Samuel Tenny 1 to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Danbury November 29th 1779—

Dear Sir,

When I inform you I am in a cold fireless Chamber, writing on a Teatable so compleatly in Ruins, that it is with the utmost Difficulty I can, with two Knees & one Hand, keep it together, you will have a more convincing Proof of my warm Friendship for you & your agreable & amiable Lady, than the most specious Protestations could possibly afford.—Till I met with Col. Folsom, in this Place, two Days since, I had never heard from you, or a single Friend in Exeter since I parted with them. By your own Feelings on similar Occations, you may judge of the Happiness I enjoy'd in hearing by him of your Welfare.

Soon after I left Exeter I joind my Regiment at Rhode Ifland, found my Friends well, & have spent the Time very happily till since the Evacuation of Newport. — We are now on our Way to Head-Quarters, which is to be near Morris-town in N. Jersey. Our Unhappiness now is that we have to build our own winter Quarters, at a Time when we ought to be in them, & after a Summer of Idleness & Luxury to spend the winter in Penury & Fatigue. — But upon every Adversity in a military Life, the Frenchman says, "C'eft la Fortune de Guerre", & makes himself easy; — & I know of no better Way than to imitate him. — He is certainly happy who is contented with his Situation. —

Had the British Army, & consequently our Regiment, continued at Rhode Ifland, I pleas'd myself with the Thoughts of spending some Part of the Winter with my Friends at Exeter & elsewhere—but now the Distance will be so greatly encreas'd, that I am uncertain whether

¹ Dr. Tenny, of Exeter, a surgeon in the Revolutionary Army, married Abigail Gilman, daughter of Samuel Gilman, Jr., and his second wife, Lydia Robinson, widow of Col. Zebulon Giddinge. This Col. Giddinge was a brother of the Dr. John Giddinge associated with the rest in the Tavern bill above.

so much Happiness will fall to my Share. But be that as it may, neither Distance nor Time will ever be able to efface or diminish those warm Sentiments of Respect & Esteem with which I have the Honor to be,

my Dear Sir, yours & Mrs Gilman's very sincere Friend, & moft obed Serv

Sam¹ Tenny

P. S. A Line or two from you directed to Col. Scammel's Quarters will not fail of coming safe to Hand, or of affording me the highest Satisfaction.—My best Respects are presented to all Friends—

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Col. John Hurd to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 13th April 1780.

Dear Sir

I have not yet had the pleasure to see y^r Friend Mr Fouquet—y^r Letter to him still lyes by me—I enquir'd for him at Mons^r Duplifis in our Neighborhood on my first coming into Town, & was told he had gone a Journey to New London w^{ch} is a little unlucky. I have by me ready to send you by first Opp^o Buchan's family Physician & a Couple fmall tooth Ivory Combs agreeable to M^{rs} Gilman's desire, Cost as at foot, £30 w^{ch} you'll please to answer for me to M^r Secretary Thompson as Master Pearson can inform may be requisite and let our Friend Mr Eliph^t Hale know I have bou^t his Bandanna Handkerchief that shall be sent along with y^r Things.

pray my kindest Compliments to M^{rs} Gilman & am with great regard Y^r most humb^e Serv^t J: Hurd.

Cost of

Buchan's Fam. Physⁿ £18—2 fine tooth Ivory Combs 12 £30—

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I. Wells to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 10th July 1780

Dear fir as Major Gains is going your way thought I would

write a few lines to Inform you that I got home fafe, and have eat and Drank my allowance evry day—I dont mean Hastapuding—but something sollid, & half a bottle Porter a Day—the Journey your way Has done me so much Good I believe I shall pay you another Vil'it before fall—I have laid out some of your Money for a bb Rice & some Coffee ye Rice @ 120£ Coffee 66/P lb 50 lb ye remainder I shall Endeaver to lay out with somebody that I find wants ye Money Most, & Ship them ye first oppy to Colon Wentworth—Major Gains Can Inform you about News &c—Mrs Wells sends her love to Mrs Gilman and says she longs to see her, & says if I go without her you Must turn me out—so uppon ye Whole I dont see but I must—my regards to all Friends &c &c and am with Regard Your Frend I Wells

I P S I shant write by Colon Hurd unless something

turns up More than I Know of at prefent—

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We have not found the date when Joseph Gilman was put on the New Hampshire Board of War or the Committee of Safety.

Capt. Henry Dearborn to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Camp Octobr 12th 1780

Sir/

if you can procure good cloath and trimmens for a coat soon & deliver it to Mr^s Dearborn you will oblige me,—how comes on the orrange trees, pleas to make my compliments to Mr^s Gilman—

I am Sir your most obed^t & very Hum^e Serv^t

H. Dearborn.¹

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J. Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Dr Sir.

Friend Clifford is in Town & will take my hhd Sugar

¹ Capt. Dearborn was in Col. Stark's N. H. Regiment.

on Fryday Therefore if you have not Engaged a teem keep it for him— In haste

am Yrs J. Wentworth

Jany 2d 1781 —

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State New Hampshire. In Comtee of Safety.1

Feby 17th 1781.

Sir

The a/cs which this State has agst the United States for transportation the year past (furnished by the Board of War & now to be settled with M^r Emery) youⁿ please to make out in your own name & take his obligation as A.D.Q.master for payment.

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Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Portsmo Feby 20th 1781.—

Dear fir.

I am stil confined to my Chamber, I hope soon to be out—In the Interim fear^g M^r Emery may set out for Head Q^{rs} to settle his Commissarys businefs, and it may be necessary for the Board to furnish him wth our Supplies in his Department, I inclose the Invoice of what we sent to Coos—the Waggon Matters you can furnish him with I mean the different Transportations of Powder & Rum &c^a. I likewise Inclose a Certificate of M^r Jaffrey^s w^{ch} I ment^d to M^r Emery to take with him & procure an order for on the Loan Office w^{ch} he was obliging eno. to offer to Effect if posible—please to give it him, taking his rec^t for it in the name of M^r Jaffrey.—Is the Treasury stil empty—sh^d it be, & continue so long we must take out a Statute of Bankruptey—

I am with regard

D Sir y^r very h^e serv^t Josh Wentworth ²

¹ Provincial & State Papers, N. H., x, 534.

² Joshua Wentworth was a cousin of the Royalist governor, Sir John Wentworth, and also of Judge John Wentworth, husband of Rev. Nicholas Gilman's sister, Joannah Gilman. Joshua Wentworth was a merchant of Portsmouth and one of the New Hampshire Board of War.

March 30, 1781

Return^d M^r Jaffreys Certificate to Col Wentworth ¹ Joseph Gilman Esq

favd P

Lieut Jnº Gardner Exeter

139

Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Portsm^o Feb^y 21st 1781 —

Dear fir

Your fav. of yesterday came to hand this morning—I have shewn y^r Letter to M^r Penhallow who thinks with me you had best execute the business ment^d & are of opinion one may as well as the whole.—I am

D. Sir Yr hble ob Sert

Josh. Wentworth

P. S. I wish you wou'd observe the afsortment of Goods Mefs^{rs} Cabots have & their mode of Sale wth price & let me know on your return.

Yrs W

140

Jedidiah Jewett to the N. H. Board of War.

Camp New Hampshire Village April 4th 1781.

Gentⁿ

Inclosed you will find a Memorandum of all the Goods found in Store belonging to the State, all the Articles that I could find the price of, is marked againft the Article. I should be glad to have the price of all sent, as I am not certain those marked, are Right. The articles of Clothing most wanted are, Shirts, frocks, Overalls & Shoes, the last of which is always wanted, & always will be, untill better can be had for them. a great part of those drawn from Continental Store, will not laft more than a week, before they are all to pieces—a Soldier very much wants two Shirts, two frocks, & two p^r Overalls at a time, & then they would keep them clean, which

¹ This line is a notation by JOSEPH GILMAN.

would make them last much Longer, then they now do. for now many of them will wear their Shirt untill it is so dirty, it washes to pieces very easy and last them but a very short time, when you know the number of Recruits Raised, and the Situation of their Cloath, you will be much better able to Judge of the Number of Shirts &c wanted, then I at present can be—Rum, Sugar, & tea Coffee or Chocolat, is much wanted by the officers, & Never more Necessary than in the Spring & Summer Seafon—I wish for some paper to be sent by the first Conveyance, as it is with great Difficulty I can git enough to write a Letter on—the Soldiers in General want nothing but to be well fed, Cloathed and paid their wages, in small Sums. & often, to be very easy - Gratuities they think nothing of, while they sopole they have a debt due them. many at the time they are receiving a gratuity will say, damn their gratuities, let them pay us what they owe us, & we want no more. I have paid Fifteen dollars to each Soldier as a gratuity & Shall (Unless ordered to the Contrary) pay the remainder of the money on Account, then the State can Charge them with it, or not, as they Please. The Massachusets has given their Soldiers nine Hard Dol^s each, with a promise of Fifteen more to be sent them soon. The other two New England States have given none but pay a small Sum, which Seems to be thought by the officers of all the States to be much the best way, and appears to give equil satisfaction to the Soldier. Provifions have been plenty & Good, the winter past, & the army remarkably Healthy. There is nothing new here, more than you have undoubtedly before this time had in the public papers.

I am Gentlemen Your Most obedient Hmble Sert.

Jedidiah Jewett.

To the Honble the Board of War

New Hampshire

War Office.¹

Received April 16th 1781. with the Return of Clothing left by Major Bafs.

¹ This line and the two following are notations by the war office.

Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Portsm^o April 11 1781

Dear Sir

I reed your fave of this day P D. Nichole, I shall be up for the money fryday morning.—and as it is most probable the purchase will be made beyond Newbury, shall postpone setg off 'til monday as going sooner will not fave D Sir yr very he Servt Iam time to advantage Josh. Wentworth

The Alexander, Cap Simpson return^d this morning from her Cruize, has not taken any Vefsel no other news

142

Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Portsm^o Ap¹ 23^d 1781—

Jos Wentworth

Dear Sir

I have set the Taylors to work to make the Cloaths wen are to be finish'd wednesday night, sho be glad you would send down one of our Waggoners wth a horse & the bag I bot at Cape Ann on Thursday Morning to take them up. —

I have supplied Capt Robinson wth a Coat Cloth & faceing—weh is all we can possibly furnish him, indeed he is contented, except we cou'd get Lining of Shalloon, we'n I will try to do, -

I have obtain'd the fav of Cap Robinson to take up 51/4 vds white Cloth we he will deliver you — remain D Sir vrs

Inclosed is the paper of to day I send it for your government in the advertizement for the Offices

143

Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Dr Sir

I send by Hector 20 pr Stockings & 10 small fhirts web

I bot ready made cheap, they will do for Lads, to morrow, shall have about 30 large fhirts, Stockings Coats & Waistcoats, shd be glad the horse may be here early as posible,—

shall be obliged you wou'd take off what is Lieut. Jn° Gardners Wages as Lieut to Jewell & Adjutant to the Col° Bartlets Reg* & send me the two sums down tomor-

row —

am D. Sir Y^{rs} J. Wentworth

P S. the reason of send^g the articles ment^d above by Hector, was his offer to carrie them & the Cloaths here will fill the Bag I ment^d in mine P Capt Robinson to be sent down

144

Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Dr Sir,/

Lieut Merrow is the Officer we promised 4 fhirts toe, & suite Cloaths, sh^d be glad you wou'd furnish him

Y' h' Serv'

Portsmº Apl 25, 1781 —

Josh Wentworth for self & Mr President

145

J. Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

War Office Portsm^o Ap¹ 26. 1781

D. Sir

At foot you have Acc^t of the Cloathing P Nichls Nichols. more Shirts & Coats are now making w^{ch} will send soon as finish'd remain Y^r J. Wentworth

38 Pr yarn hose

41 Shirts

16 Coats

16 Waistcoats

Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Portsm^o April 28^t 1781 —

Dr Sir.

Inclos'd are a bundle & Letter P post yesterday. also two discharges for 6 m°s men w°h you will Note—

I have agreed wth a Man belonging to Newbury for 150 p^r mooskin Breaches at £75 to be inspected & those we disaprove off to turn bye—pay half in a State Note half Cash—they are to be at Exeter next Thursday, when I will be up—I am

D. Sir y^{rs} Josh. Wentworth

147

J. Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Dr Sir

Your fav^r of this day P fifer Odiorne ree^d, we have no Cloth on hand a number of Coats are made & will be sent up first opp^{ty}.—no Cloth to be purchas'd in Town of such Quality nor indeed any blue, if any sh^d come will buy eno, for 6 suites you mention & send to Exeter as the mode of making wont suite the Non. Commission'd Officers they say

with respect to Dowlas, we cannot buy any 'til our Commission is out for the Commission'd Officers, fearing Cash wont hold out.—We have purchas'd Cotton & Linnen, & the Other Cloathing to amt of our finances, 'til the Officers money cannot be Invested, as you are sencible they will expect their suites agreeable to Colo Dearbourn's solicitation to the Court & their order in Consequence—

remain D Sir Yrs J. Wentworth Portsmo Apl 28, 1781—

148

The N. H. Board of War to Jedidiah Jewett by Joseph Gilman.

War Office Exeter 23d May 1781—Your Letter of April 4th came duely to hand, inclosing a

¹ A strong and coarse linen.

Return of what Clothing you found in Store, some of the Articles you say were not mark'd (the Copies of Invoices of those Articles being at the Office in Portsmouth prevents our sending the prices by this Opp° but will send them by the next party who will march in a few days—This incloses an Invoice of a Cask Coffee & one ditto Sugar, and such Articles of Clothing we were able to purchase, for the Officers, Amt £. 313.4.7. in delivering which you will observe the Instructⁿ you have already rec^d from us. The other Articles you mention shall be sent on as soon as the Court supply us with the means & the Articles can be purchased. We are Sir

Yr humble Servts

J Gilman In behalf of the

Copy to be fent to Portsmo Board of War.

149

Col. Scammel to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.¹

June 9 1781

"I am confident you have not been wanting in your exertions for us. Our foldiers - poor fellows I feel diftrefsed for them beyond description—they are ragged, very ragged but a fmall degree removed from ftarknakedness. I would suppose that our brother citizens are doing everything in their power for us, while we are enjoying Continental fare in the field. Their political falvation depends on a good army well found. I fhudder at the prospect of the ensuing campaign, not from fear of the enemy, but from apprehensions of starvation. The fupplies are fo very precarious that the Commander-in Chief cannot lay a fingle plan, or commence a fingle operation, for want of the necessary supplies. What a pity that our great and good General should be cramped in his operations, which, perhaps, if well feconded, might this campaign be decifive! I wright this part only for your ftanch Whigg friends. I don't wish the Tories might know the circumstances, least they should triumph. Make use of it as a Spurr to our Assembly as many of them as you can truft."

¹ Gilman Genealogy, 89.

"The refinement of our Commander-in-Chief's manoeuvres & movements eludes the army and I presume of the enemy. But what shall we do with our money? The new emission has shared the same fate as the old, and puts me in mind of the funeral procession at New Haven on the first news of the new emission being issued. They buried a quantity of old bills, and fixed a new bill on the grave-stone, with this Inscription wrote upon it—Be ye also ready."

150

Joshua Wentworth to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Portsm° Oct° 6. 1781. —

Dr Sir

Only 60 flints remain'd on hand of the States—Colo Langdon having a Q^{ty} belong^g to the Continent, supply'd 1000, wth answers for the number you wrote for—

No further news here from the Southward, - remain

D. Sir y^r m^o h^e Serv^t

Josh, Wentworth

151

The N. H. Committee of Safety to Hon. Samuel Hunt, Charlestown, Mass.

Exeter Octo 7. 1781 —

Sir

By Order of the Hon^{ble} Committee of Safety for This State, I have sent a quantity of Military Stores, directed for you—an Invoice of which is herewith inclosed, also a Receipt for the fame, which you will please to sign & deliver to the bearer Dudley Nicolle, one of our Waggoners—

I have the honor to be

with great Esteem Your most hum Serv^t Jos. Gilman

Joseph Gilman served on a committee with his brother Josiah and Mr. Ephraim Robinson, to consider the depreciation of wages of officers and soldiers belonging to the New Hampshire line of the army of 1780 and 1781. This

appointment was made on January 18, 1782, and in September of the same year, he was made judge of probate during the absence of Phillips White at Congress.

152

Col. John Hurd to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 5th June 1782

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of y^r Letter of 2^d Inst P Col^o Folsom—am obligd by y^r Care of forward^g my Friend's Letter fome time agoe to Capt Sullivan, & send^g the Deed by Major Hodgdon with the Money for record^g if any farther Expence, you'll please to let me know & shoud be glad to have the Deed returnd by fome fafe Hand if you can get it from the Recorder Capt Waldron who I heard

fome time agon had been very fick.

I recollect fomething about the Bur Mill ftones I believe M^r Fisher sent for intend^g them for his Mills at Coho'os, but afterwards releasd them to Gov^r Wentworth. what the Sterl^g Cost was I dont remember, cant think it coud be so high as £50 St^g. I have this day made Inquiry of Some N. York Gentlemen who formerly imported fuch—they say the Cost was fome where between 15 & 20 Guineas, & that they were sold for about 40 or £50 York Curr^g—tis not likely they woud sell in this Town, however I will enquire further & inform you if any Encouragem^t foon.

Pray my respectful Complim^{ts} to M^{rs} Gilman whom I am very glad is in fo good health, with kind regards to Mast^r Ben, thank them for their kind Enquiry about my Son Jacky who I heard very lately was as hearty & well as I coud expect him to be, & hope will hold out fo for another Campaign. Jacob has been at Coho'os from the time he left you last Spring—heard from him about a fortnight past—he has great patience & resolution to tarry there so long at hard Fare & Labour—but hope it may be for his future Benefit, to bare the Yoke in his Youth—have you at Exeter any late Advices from Congress respecting the State of Vermont, & are our Western Counties like ever to return into regular legal order. I

wish to hear fome authentic account—a few lines from you to the purpose will much oblige

D^r Sir Your real Friend & most hum^e Serv^t

Jnº Hurd.

pray my regards to our Friend M^r Hale—I wish to fee him in Town that I may discharge a fmall obligation am under to him. Remember me too, if you please, to y^r Broth^r Capt Gilman and our Friend—I left feveral Town Charters with Master Pearson to be recorded. Be so kind to take them into y^r Care till I can send for them.

153

M. Hodge to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Newburyport, 28 July 1782.

Sir

I have a quantity of y' States New Emission Money by me to the am' of 600 Dollars, which I could wish to be well rid off, therefore would kindly thank you for your advise, whether to wait for its redemption or to Exchange it for y' states Notes, or whether its Likely the Interest will be paid on it, or what y' Legislature will determine concerning it, shall Esteem it as a favour to inform me, what measures have been taken & what in your Opinion is Likely to be taken for its Redemption

M^{rs} Hodge will have the pleasure I hope of handing this to you, & find you & M^{rs} Gilman in as good health as it

Leaves your most Obedt most Hble Servt

M. Hodge

154

Col. John Hurd to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 9th Aprl 1783.

Dear Sir

I have ye pleasure of yes of yes 7th Inst P Gen Folsom, & observe you had rec ye papers respecting Mr Olmsted's Sons Wages which ye would be mindful of—am forry to

find that you had been in so very ill health when I wrote by Capt Jewet, w^{ch} I had not heard of tho' I never fail to enquire after y^r & M^{rs} Gilman's Welfare wⁿever I have Opp°. I pray God you may enjoy better health & sin-

cerely wish you long to live happily together.

I am truely grievd to hear of M^r Nich^s Gilmans Death,¹ tis a great public as well as private Lofs & many may have reason to mourn for him; nor had I heard before Gen¹ Folsom informd me, of poor M^{rs} Gilman's Death—their Family must be much diftrefs'd—may a kind providence be their Comforter They will find, I hope, many Friends to Sympathize with them & alleviate their Troubles—pray make my Complim^{ts} of Condolence to them.

There is a time of mourning & a Time of rejoycing for us all. I have had a Share of ye former you know — the prospect is now changing with me, & I expect in about a Month from this to take upon me the holy Yoke of Matrimony & once more try my Fortune in yt way - I know not whether you may have been inform'd of it-But I have lately formd a very intimate Connection for that purpose with a Widow Lady Mrs Foster * Relict of Dr Isaac Foster late of Charlestⁿ an agreeable person of good Charact^r & Connections, tho' so much younger than myself by 20 yrs that fome people think I have more Courage than Discretion But so long as the Lady is fatisfyd, no other person I think has a right to complain. - I shall be happy by & by to introduce her to y' & Mrs Gilman's Acquaint e In the meantime I rest assured of y good Wishes for my happynes - being with very affectionate Dr Sir Yr Friend & H Servt regards

Jn° Hurd. pray my kind Complim^{ts} to y^r Broth^r & Family, M^r Hale &c &c.

* you see I'm fond of ye family name

¹ Son of the "Uncle Daniel" of whom Joseph had written earlier, and father of Hon. Nicholas Gilman. Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, Sr., died March 17, 1783, and her husband on April 7, of the same year.

Joseph Wood to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Beverly December 28th 1783

Sir

Yours of the 15th of November Last I received on the 19th and have agreeable to your Desire not Sold those articles mentioned in your Letter but Sold all the rest of the estate Exceping the 1/2 a pew in the meeting House What I Sold amounts to better than £100 — I have not received but few accounts as vet — I Should have before this have Wrote to you on the Subject, but I have been verry befsev in Publick and my own Private affairs So that I have not had oppertunity to Examine the papers relative to Capt Iveses eftate, as I Should have been glad to have done. I this evening been Informd of Hectors going to Exeter tomorrow morning. the Notice being so Short I Cold not Send you the Peticulers desired in your Letter—as I do not So well under Stand your meaning relative to my sending you an account of monies Capt Ives received, wheather you mean monies or personal estate he received that was not Inventoryed as Col Hales estate or monies &c that was Inventoryed. I think I have found a Copy of the will and Inventory, also accts of monies and Charges paid by Capt Ives also Some notes or bonds on hand that are Desperate and out Lawed also Sum receipts from your Self of personal estate received but No peticilar receipts about the Negros. I Should esteam your enformation relative to any or all the foresaid Peticulers as a grate feaver and that as Soon as You Polobly Can as I Shall waite your answer before I Send you any further Peticulers, and uppon the receipt of your Letter I will with the gratest freedom and Dispatch Comply with your most Resonable Demands and furnish you with any acctt that is in my power

your Speedey Compliance will Grately oblige your Very Humble Servet Joseph Wood

The post Knows Where I Live

¹ Robert Hale Ives, Mrs. Joseph Gilman's brother, had died at sea, October 19, 1779.

Col. John Hurd to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Boston 27th April 1784

Dear Sir

I rec^d y^r favor of 3^d Inst P M^r Gorham with the charters of Bath & Relhan ¹ & am obliged by y^r Care therein; I shoud have wrote you P his return but the Weather being bad for feveral days I did'nt know when he set out—am glad to find the Articles I sent you were to your mind, doubt not of your readynefs to return the fmall favor as I have great proof of y^r Friendship in many respects which I fear shall never have Opp° sufficiently to retaliate

either to you & Mrs Gilman as I coud wish.

I hope in the Course of this fummer ensuing & promise M^{rs} Hurd that we will make a Journey into New Hampsh: to see our Friends, and twill give me great pleasure to introduce her to you & Mrs Gilman at Exeter - At present Mrs Hurd is confind to her Chamber, after a severe & critical time of laying in by weh She run great hazard of her Life, but we have much fatisfaction in her having brought into ye World two pretty little pledges of our Love female Twins, we are healthy & like to do well & she herself fave a little extra weaknefs, in a good way of recovering her health & ftrength - I know twill give you pleasure to hear, among the rest of our Friends that we can do fuch great Things in our advanc'd years—it happend that Parson Parker's Wife of this Town, brout him Twins, Boys—the fame day, (yesterday was four Weeks) web occasiond considerable Chit Chat, among the Ladies especially, you may therefore conclude twas pleasing to us - our Little Girls were Xen'd a few days after by the Names of Catherine & Elizabeth—the first in memory of & out of respect to my late worthy & good Friend Mrs Heard of London decd: the other of my late Dear Wife — May the Children inherit ye Virtues of their predecessors—Mrs Hurd requests her kind Complimts & Respects to you & Mrs Gilman with mine & I am very truly

Your affectionate Friend & most hum Servt John Hurd. My regards to M^r Ben my son Jacky desires his respects. Jacob is at Coho'os.

P. S.

As to the price of public Securities — they are nearly as follows — Peirce's Certificates, Imlays and other Cont¹ Commifs sell at 3/3/3 & 3/6 P pound according to ye Interest due on them, a little more or lefs. Loan Office Certificates with two years Interest due on them have been sold at 6/8 in ye pound. there feems some prospect of their rising now, as we hear Congress have passd some late resolves providing for paym of the Interest our Massa: State Certificates sett at 7/, they have been lately at 8/ & 9/ but the Gnl Court rising without laying any new Taxes for redemption of them as expected, they have fell again & are dull fale—I think after next May fefsion of the Gen¹ Court, when its probable fomething further will be done—the ftate fecurities will rise. New Hampsh: State Securities have lately sold at 6/ I meet with them but seldom. Shoud be glad to know how they are fold in y' State & what provision for payment of the Interest — Should all the ftates come into a Gen Impost as we have some prospect now, undoubtedly all public Securities must rise, weh I hope will be the Case in pity to many who are great fufferers by their Depreciation. I thank you for y' Intention of recommending any of y' Friends to me in this way—I negotiate considerable Value, tho' I do not flourish away by Advertizemts as fome Folks do. pray my respects to Gen¹ Folsom & Family also to y' Broth, M' Hale & theirs

157

Notice of Election to the State Senate, 1785.

Hampton falls, May the 18th 1785.

Sir

Whereas it appears, by examining the returned Copies of the votes for Senators, that you are chosen a Senator for the County of Rockingham by a majority of votes:

You are therefore desired to attend at Portsmouth

on the first Wednefday in June next and take your Seat agreeably to the Constitution of this State.

M Weare.

158

Supply Clap to Joseph Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Portsmouth July 14th 1786—

 $D^r S^r$

I have rec^d all the Public Stores from Col^o Wentworth, and should be Obliged you would deliver the bearer, all that are in your Pofsefsion (except the Powder) with a minute of every article, he will receive them at the Store & carry them to the Gondola.—I should not think it worth while to fend the empty Casks you mention'd—or anything else that is of no value, as it would enhance the expence & be of no benefit to the State,

Your Compliance herein will very much oblige —

 $S^r/$

P S. I suppose these Stores will be Receipted for wth Col^o WentworthYour most Ob^t Serv^t Supply Clap

159

Notice of Election as State Senator, 1787.

Concord June 7th 1787 —

Sir.

The General Court having elected you a Senator for the County of Rockingham for the ensuing year, this is therefore to notify you thereof and to desire your attendance as soon as may be.—

> Jn^o Sullivan, President

The Honorable

Joseph Gilman Esq.

Exeter. (public service)

160

Hon. Nicholas Gilman was born in 1755. He was distinguished in the Revolution and was the New Hampshire commissioner to the Federal Convention that drafted the

constitution, which was adopted September 17 and presented to Congress September 20, 1787, with a letter from Gen. Washington in his capacity as president of the convention.

Hon. Nicholas Gilman to Joseph Gilman.

Philadelphia September 18th 1787

Dear Sir

The important business of the Convention being closed, the Secretary set off this morning to present Congress with a report of their proceedings, which I hope will soon come before the State in the manner directed; but as some time must necessarily elapse before that can take place I do myself the pleasure to transmit the enclosed papers for your private satisfaction—forbearing all comments on the plan but that it is the best that could meet the unanimous concurrence of the States in Convention;—it was done by bargain & Compromise—yet—notwithstanding its imperfections, on the adoption of it depends (in my feeble Judgment) whether we shall become a respectable nation or a people torn to pieces by intestine commotions and rendered contemptable for ages.—

Please to present my most respectful regards to M^{rs} Gilman — My love to my friend Tenney & Cousin Ben: of

whose return I was very glad to hear —

I am with the greatest Respect Dr Sir

> Your Most Obedient and Humble Servant Nich: Gilman

Hon'ble Joseph Gilman Esq^r

On June 12th, 1787, Joseph Gilman attended the opening day of the Senate, took his oath and was immediately chosen "Senior Senator" in virtue of which position he "administered the oath to the President," probably the presiding officer. He was also elected one of the five

Councillors for New Hampshire for the next year. On the 27th, Mr. Gilman was put on a committee to consider a bill "to exempt Bodies of debtors from prison when there is sufficient estate tendered to satisfy demands."¹ The bill was presented the next day and was enacted. On September 28th, he was appointed a commissioner to settle Continental accounts.

From this time, the fall of 1787, when everything appeared to be going well with him, we know nothing of his affairs until we find him leaving Exeter in November, 1788, and moving with his wife and son, a young man of twenty-two, to the new settlement on the Ohio river, afterwards called Marietta, then in the North-West Territory. It seems hardly possible that the brothers, Tristram and Josiah, did not know beforehand of the change, but I have not been able to find any letters which explain it. It is said that the GILMANS were proud and could not endure to have their old friends in Exeter know of their changed circumstances. It is evident that financial conditions forced the move. The uneasiness evinced in some of the past correspondence about the new Emission money and the redemption of state securities and their consequent value, shows how difficult were money conditions immediately after the Revolution.

It will be seen later that Joseph Gilman was a creditor of the state for advances on clothing, etc., which he had furnished to the troops and this debt and the entire collapse of business must have rendered his position extremely hard. The family had always been a leading one in Exeter and it would be natural to suppose that they did not like to reduce their scale of living while among their old neighbors. In the Records of the Original Proceedings of the Ohio Company, edited by Archer Butler Hulbert, Professor in Marietta College, and pub-

¹ N. H. State Papers.

lished by the Marietta Historical Commission, light is thrown on this subject and I shall quote freely from the book.

Rev. Mannasseh Cutler, pastor of the Ipswich, Mass., church (who, with Gen. Rufus Putnam, Maj. Winthrop Sargent, John Brooks and Thomas Cushing, all of Massachusetts, was on the original committee to draft the plan of the Ohio Company) gave his church the following reasons for his emigration: "I had suffered exceedingly in ye war and after it was over, by paper money and ye high price of articles of living . . . Purchasing lands in a new country appeared to be ye only thing I could do to secure a living to myself, and family in that unsettled state of public affairs." Probably Joseph Gilman would have said very much the same thing.

After his departure for the west, the legislature passed a resolution, February 5, 1789, as follows: "Whereas Joseph Gilman, Esqr, one of the Board of War, has left this State and Joshua Wentworth & John Penhallow Esquires, the other two members are desirous of settling their accounts with the State, Therefore voted that Mr Nath^{II} Rogers, Mr Nath^{II} Peabody & Mr James Sheafe or either two of them be a committee to receive their accounts: Examine vouchers & state the accounts & make report at their session." On January 19, 1790, the account of "Joseph Gilman presented to the House of Representatives by his son Benj. Ives Gilman, showed a balance due Joseph Gilman £7057.12/.6d. paper money which allowing for value at time of expenditure equals £182. 18/.0. silver money." The committee reported that they had carefully examined the vouchers and found them "well vouched & correctly stated & more accurately than could have been expected in so complicated a Busi-

¹ Records of O. P. Ohio Co., i, lvii.

² N. H. State Papers.

³ Ibid.

ness." On January 21 another report approved for payment "cloathing account" for the year 1782 of "the Committee of Safety," and also for Mr. Gilman's "services at 6/. Pr day £89. 1/. 10d." The report was not concurred in by the Senate, although the Lower House approved it. Just how much he ever received, I cannot tell, but the last amount, £89.1/10d, was paid him on June 7, 1791.

The formation of the Ohio Company is one of the most interesting events of our history. Prof. Hulbert says of it: ". . . it was not a typical land company formed primarily for speculation, but rather the New England element of the Continental Line attempting to secure its due by assuming the guise of a land company to which Congress could make its first sale of western land under the excuse that the national debt was being paid." "As an agent of good government, as a pioneer influence holding out its hand to the humble and the unfortunate, as the representative of the Government in time of horror and disaster, as an exponent of brotherhood, as the advocate of justice and righteousness and civic pride, the relationship of the Ohio Company of Associates to the first men and women of Ohio was uniquely unselfish and thoroughly American. No land Company in America can match its record as a public servant in laying the foundation of an American State."3 "Were the records extant, it would probably prove that the real springs of action . . . would be found to be in the military and Masonic associations which bound these revolutionary officers together; these ties extending beyond state boundaries, included officers from nearly all adjacent commonwealths." It will interest us to see how

¹ N. H. State Papers.

² Rec. O. P. O. Co., i, xlviii.

³ Ibid., cii.

⁴ Ibid., xl.

these words of Prof. Hulbert's are illustrated by our letters.

Joseph Gilman was not an incorporator of the company. He arrived in Marietta a year after its establishment and his name does not even appear on the list of shareholders, although his son, Benj. Ives, was later a member of the Council and owned two shares. He, however, took a principal part in the affairs of the colony at once and became an important citizen. This is evident from the records and we can read much of his character in the impression made by him on the little community. He was put on a committee to meet the governor, Gen. Arthur St. Clair and to "inform him of the House prepared for him & request his acceptance thereof;" on another to ascertain the value of clearing city(?) lots and the "Ultimate Grand Division of Lands;" and with Dudley Woodbridge and Elijah Backus to address the "Court of General Sessions of the Peace of Washington Co. on our present defenceless situation & report." He offered to build a Block House (familiar to him from the one in Exeter owned by his grandfather) "on the lands granted for the use of Fort Harmar and not otherwise appropriated" and he was put on a committee to lease the public squares and ornament them, planting Marie Antoinette square with mulberry, elm, honey locust, weeping willows, etc.

The work he had done so many years before with Master Leach was useful now, for we read, November 17, 1794, "Joseph Gilman Esquire one of the Committee appointed by the Agents of the Ohio Company to make a plan of the Purchase & Rufus Putnam Esquire Superintendent of surveys, Reported to the board the following

¹ Rec. O. P. O. Co., ii, 126.

² Ibid., ii, 23.

³ Ibid., 71.

⁴ Ibid., 121.

state of facts (Viz) That agreeably to Judge Gilman's Calculation of the Meanders of the Ohio River alowing for the Sphereal figure of the earth or the difference of Miles, making a Degree of Longitude in each paralel of Latitude, The Ohio Companies purchase of seven Hundred and fifty thousand Acres aught to extend on the next boundary of the seventh Range of townships, North from the Ohio, . . . That Judge Gilmans Calculation was very Minute he having formed tables adapted to give the smallest proportion of variation, while General Putnams Calculation were made from a mean proportion applied Generally to all the Meanders of the Ohio River — Whereupon Resolved that Judge Gilmans Calculation shall be taken."

The scene of these letters now changes to Marietta. At the time of Joseph Gilman's departure for the North-West Territory there were still living of his family, his mother, Mrs. Nicholas Gilman, who died February 22, 1789, aged seventy-six; his old cousin, Col. Peter, who died December 1, 1788, aged eighty-five; and his two brothers, Tristram and Josiah, who lived until 1809 and 1801, respectively.

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JOSEPH GILMAN to Hon. Nicholas Gilman.2

Marietta 11th May 1789.

Dear Sir

I embrace the first Opportunity to thank you for your kindness in forwarding Doct^r Tennys Letter, which I found on my arrival here the 8th Ult^o. It was so late in the season, when we arrived at the Youghegany River being the 22d November, and took so long to build a Boat, that we were Oblig'd to spend the Winter there, we were lucky enough to procure one of the best Cabbins in the

¹ Rec. O. P. Co., ii, 229.

² The Congress of the United States, of which Nicholas Gilman was a member, met in New York, April 4, 1789, for their first session.

Settlement, it was tight & warm, and fufficiently large to accommodate the whole Family Seven in number. — Mrs G. bore the fatigues of the Journey remarkably well, and the whole family have enjoyd almost uninterrupted health fince we left Exeter.—I fincerely congratulate you on the New Government's taking effect, and that you are a member of it. Your fituation affords you the earliest intelligence from every quarter, and there being so many persons now at N^w York who have been in this Country you will form a much better Idea of it from their information, than is in my power to give you from the little time I have been here; all that I can fay at present is that my expections tho' rais'd, are fully satisfied. Several fettlements have been begun, one about 15 Miles from the City up Duck Creek, two or three up the Muskingum, and one about 12 Miles down the Ohio, this last is carried on with great spirit. 2 good Block houses and many dwelling Houses are already erected, and considerable ground Cleared - You will doubtless have heard before this reaches you of the murder of one man at this Settlement Capt King from Newport a man much esteemed here, his lot was the lowest in the Settlement and imprudently on the 30th April he went to work alone 3/4 mile distant from his Messmates, was found murdered, scalpd and stripped to his Shirt in the Afternoon but one track could be discoverd & this a Moggasin one, but here moggasins are worn by whites as well as Indians. from many circumstances, it seems far from certain that the murder was committed by Indians. The furveyors were out in different quarters at the time but faw no marks of Indians, should no further mischief take place soon, Gentⁿ here who seem best acquainted with Indians & their manners, fay, they shall be at no lofs but the murder was committed by some Vilain of a hunter.

This is certainly a most delightful Country and feems destind in time to be a very great one—I doubt not it will be among the first Objects attended to by the New Government. Judge Parsons arrived here on Saturday last, he informs that Governor S^t Clair, waits for the Arrangement of matters before he fets out for this place. It is a matter of delicacy with me, and what I should by no means attempt, was not I afsured by One of the first

Characters here, there was no impropriety in foliciting our friends in Government for such Offices as they may judge us capable of filling, whether or not this may be the case respecting the Office now vacant by the Death of General Varnum and your humble Servant, is left entirely with you, all that I shall say further on the fubject is, I fhould not thought of it, had it not been fuggested by the Gentⁿ alluded to above. I am to fet out this morning in Company with a party from the Garrison to take a View of the land 30 or 40 miles down the Ohio. On my return I shall be better Able to give you some particular Account of the Country than I am at present.

M^{rs} G & Son send you their best Wishes. Please to make my Compt^s to Gen¹ Members from N^w Hamps^e.

I am with great esteem

Your Affect^{te} Friend & Hum^{ble} Servant Joseph Gilman.

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Before Benj. Ives Gilman went west with his parents he had fallen in love with Hannah Robbins, the pretty step-granddaughter of his father's cousin, Col. Peter Gilman. There used to be a window-pane in the Gilman Garrison House on which Hannah had scratched with a diamond:

"Honble Peter Gilman Esqr and Mrs Jane Prince were married Sept 1761

Chandler Robbins and Jane Prince were married October 1761

Thomas Cary and Deborah Prince were married Sept. 1783

Hannah Robbins Apl 9th 1788"

Col. Peter Gilman, as we have said, died in December, 1788, and thenceforward his widow spent her time between the homes of her two daughters, Mrs. Chandler Robbins of Plymouth and Mrs. Thomas Cary of Newburyport. We now include this new family circle in the correspondence and an explanation of the people mentioned is necessary.

Rev. Chandler Robbins had a brother and four sisters. His brother was Rev. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins, of Norfolk, who married Elizabeth LeBaron, of Plymouth, and had a number of children: Nathaniel; Ammi R., Jr.; Elizabeth, who married Grove Lawrence; Rev. Thomas, the Diarist; Sarah, who married Joseph Battell, of Norfolk; James W.; Samuel, and Francis LeBaron.

His sisters were Irene, who married George D. Thompson, of Halifax, and who was at this time a lively widow with two sons; Sarah, who married Rev. Peter Starr, of whose sons we shall hear later; Hannah Rebecca, who married (1) Rev. John Keep, (2) Jahleel Woodbridge; Rebecca Hannah, who married Dr. William M. Gould.

The LeBarons married into the Goodwin family of Plymouth and Dr. Chandler Robbins' eldest daughter, Jane Prince, in marrying Dr. Francis LeBaron Goodwin, in 1787, became connected with the family of her aunt, Mrs. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins. Dr. Goodwin was a surgeon in the Revolution and shortly after this time moved to Maine.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Hannah Robbins, Plymouth, Mass.

Altho' I do not consider the present oppertunity as a proper one, by any means, for sending you my sweet girl a line, yet so great is my inclination for writing that I cannot help hazarding a scrawl by a common traveller. Cap' Bradford who with his Family arrived here about a week since from Kingston informed me that your good Pa'a's Family were all well two months ago. Judge what pleasure the news afforded me after passing eleven long months without hearing from a Family in whose happiness I feel my own most intimately connected. I'm told M' Goodwin is gone to Penobscot with a view of making a settlement. I wish he may make out well, but I think your Sister is of too tender a make to undergo the hardships of a new country & what is still more disagree-

able a severe climate. We pass our time very agreeably here & there is but one person necessary to compleat our happiness. Mr Storey a Young Gentleman from Ipswich is our preacher & every thing I assure you wears the appearance of a much older settlement. Those people who wish it have not only the necessaries but the luxuries of life in as great plenty here as in N England. But the generality of the Settlers are content for the present to live in a very frugal manner. Our Family Dined yesterday with Secretary Sargent who is a very genteel & friendly man & is lately married to a very agreeable young Lady. Vegetation is much more rapid in this country than I had any Idea of & the longer I tarry here the more I'm pleas'd with the foil & Climate. Our Corn grows beyond expectation, we planted the 2^d of June without ploughing & have hoed it only once & I think we shall have at least 300 bus^{1s} from 6 acres—perhaps you will think it very strange for a young man to pretend to entertain a Lady with an account of the growth of corn &c, but when you consider that we are all Farmers in this Country you will pardon the presumption—I feel amazingly anxious to return to New England but as there are some important divisions of the Lands to take place soon, I cannot determine when I shall set off. Let me conjure you ever amiable Hannah to write me a Line by the first oppertunity. I assure you that if I do not receive a Letter soon I shall conclude that you have forgotten that there is a person at Muskingum who once posselsed your friendship & whose foul is ever devoted to your happinefs - You will excuse this hasty Scrawl for the bearer (a M^r Bryent of Bridgwater) is impatient to be on his journey. — My respectful Compts to your kind Parents — Mrs Thompson, Mrs Goodwin &c &c — We are under no apprehensions from the Indians they have done no damage since the unfortunate murder mentioned in my last. Remember vour unalterable

friend & Sincere

B:I:G

Marietta August 16th 1789 —

NB Col: Sproat & Family arrived here this morning—

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Joseph Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, New York.

Marietta 21st Augst 1789.

Dear Sir

It is with the greatest pleasure I embrace this first opportunity of acknowledging the receit of your kind Letter of the 20th June, it came to hand in one Month from the Since I wrote you, have been about 40 miles down River, from what I have seen myself and information recd from a number of respectable Genth who have had opportunities of exploring allmost the whole of the Lands purchas'd by the Ohio Company I am fully satisfied of their goodness. I believe it may be justly said that the bigger half of the whole are excellent notwithstand so many reports to the contrary; it is true the general face of the Country near the Rivers is hilly, that many of them are fteep & some of them allmost inaccefsable from the Rivers, yet there is few of them barren, the greatest part are covered with the finest Timber Trees, and will when wanted make most excellent Wheat & pasture Land. The Soil & Climate are exceeding well adapted for the cultivation of all kinds of Fruit, peach Apple & pear Trees have the most promising appearance, many thousands have been fet out this Season—fome of which blofsom'd this Year and doubtlefs will bear fruit the next. Melons here are in the greatest perfection I ate part of one Yesterday at Major Sargents, that measured 18 inches long 21 round & weighed 14 pounds, this was of the common kind but very good, but I think no fruit can exceed the Cantalupe Romania & China of all which I have often ate at his house; while I have been writing this he is arrived with his wife on a Visit & sends you his compliments. Mrs Sargent is a well bred agreeable young Lady, we esteem them the first of our Friends here. We are in no want of company and have fome that are very agreeable.

I return you my sincere thanks for the kind manner in which you have been pleas'd to Interest yourself in my

¹ Col. Winthrop Sargent was one of the original incorporators of the Ohio Colony, afterwards secretary to the governor, Gen. Arthur St. Clair, and later still, governor of Mississippi. This Mrs. Sargent was his second wife, a widow, Mrs. Mary (Mackintosh) Williams.

behalf, I had little hopes of success when I wrote you, less when I rec^d your Letter, and less fince Col Sprouts arrival, he informs a M^r Bowen from Rhode Island was soliciting, but let the Event turn as it may I feel myself under great obligations to You. perhaps something else may turn up, tho I do not know of anything at present.

Since I wrote you we have enjoyed perfect peace, and flattered ourselves that we should enjoy it uninterruptedly thro' the Season, till yesterday Mr Matthews one of our Surveyors returned from a tour down River where he has been employed the greatest part of the fummer, & informs us that 14 days before about fun rise in the morning his party was attacked first by the fire of 2 Guns by which a Young man belonging to Connecticut by the name of Pachin was fhot thro' the Body, this rous'd the Soldiers who were fitting & lying on their Blankets, immediately a Volly was fired by the Enemy and so true was their aim that 6 foldiers were killed Mr Matthews, a Corporal & two others made their escape to a neighboring Hill & from thence to the Ohio from which they were distant about 4 miles & about 25 miles below the Mouth of the great Kanawa, whether these Indians were out a hunting, or were a party on their way to or from Kentucke is uncertain, the place where our people were killed (I understand) was near one of the great War Paths from the Indian Country to Kentucke. It is said the Kentuckians have march'd in force against the Indians of the Wabash or Omi Tribes. I am in hopes af soon as Congrefs get possession of the Out Posts a final end will be put to this disagreeable businefs. The Report here is that head Quarters are to be moved from Fort Harmar to the Miamis and that the General will be ordered down this Autumn, we shall be forry to lose so many of our new acquaintances especially the General and his lady, Captains Prat & Cap. Strong & Lady.

Mrs Gilman & Son join me in their best wishes for your

welfare.

Accept my thanks for the Newspapers—And believe me to be— with the greatest esteem

Dear Sir Your Kinsman & humble Servant

J. Gilman.

P. S. Pray present my most respectful Compliments to M^r Langdon, M^r Wingate, M^r Livermore, and particular to your Brother J T, if at New York & tell him I fhould be extremely glad to receive a Letter from him.

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JOSEPH GILMAN to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, New York.

Marietta Septem^r 21st 1789.

Dear Sir

My last bearing date August 2^d in answer to your kind favor of June 20th I committed to the care of Lieut Frothingham of General Harmers Reg^t who was bound to New York desiring him to put it into the post Office at Pittsbourg since which I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you. I have just been informed that Mr Parsons, son to the Judge is to fet out to morrow morning and will probably go through New York, I could not omit so favourable an opportunity had I nothing more to fay than to repeat my thanks for your kind endeavours

for serving my Interest.

A certain M^r M^cCormick arrived here a day or two ago from Washington in Pensilvania he informs, that he saw in a Pittsbourg Paper among the proceedings of Congrefs that a Land Office was established by Congrefs for the sale of the Lands in the Western Territory, but I cannot learn that he can give any particular Account of the matter. The Agents of the Ohio Company have granted a Tract of about 3000 Acres to 30 Afsociates at a place called the long bottom about 32 Miles from this place down the River in which I have two Shares. These Lands contain part of the Townships No 2 & N° 3 in the 11th Range — in Township N° 3, Lot N° 8 reserved by Congress lies its whole length on the Ohio and contains (being a Fractional part) about 500 Acres. This Lot divides our proposed Settlement and my Shares are likely to fall above it, or up Stream; if this Lot could be obtained it would be a great advantage to the fettlement in general and to me in particular. — I have therefore to request the favour of your fecuring this Lot for

¹ John Taylor Gilman, afterwards governor of New Hampshire.

me, if it is in your power—My Son proposes to fet out in about a Month for New England and intends taking New York in his Rout.—if nothing more can be done fhould be glad the preemtion might be fecured till he arrives, as in connection with the other Land it is with me an object of considerable magnitude, tho to a person not interested in the other Lands it would be of little Value.

I am forry to give you so much trouble about my Affairs, but have no other excuse to make but the necessity of the case—M^{rs} G. and Son are well—and as to myself I have enjoyed better health fince I left New England

than I have in any one Year for 20 past.

I am with great esteem

Your friend & humble Servant

Joseph Gilman.

P. S. Nothing has transpired here respecting filling the vacancy mentiond in my former Letter. I wait the event with patience, my hopes not being great, consequently my disappointm cannot be so—Should I mifs this, and any thing else should offer, your kind afsistance will be a fresh obligation laid on your humble Servant.

o a

please to Accept M^{rs} G. and fons cordial Compliments.

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Joseph Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, New York.

Marietta 23^d Feb^y 1790.

Dear Sir

I wrote you in September last by young Mr Parsons, since which your very obliging Letter of October 5th came safe to hand, this was brought down River by Mr Parsons, but before you could have rec^a mine. We were very sorry to hear of your indisposition. The disorder you had penetrated quite through the Country from N York to this place, very few here escaped. Mrs G had her full fhare was confined nearly a month, but has been since & now is very well. We have the pleasure of hearing by Captⁿ Thompson (the bearer of this) that you had arrived at N York before he left it, and that you were well. Capt Thompson brought me a Letter from Ben dated at

N York the 29th Novem^r this was the first News we had from him after he left Shippensburg. The Winter has been very moderate, neither the Ohio nor Muskingum have been frozen, but for about six weeks past all intercourse up and down River has been interrupted by the floating Ice, and within these few days we have had a greater fresh than ever was known by any of the Settlers in this County. Our Point which has been so celebrated for its beauty, and so coveted by many that a fingle City Lot of about \(\frac{1}{3}\) of an Acre has been fold for 90 Dollars. was wholly under water, and for several days no Communication with them could be had but in Canoes. The water must have rose 8 feet perpendicular higher to have come to our house which is \\ \frac{1}{3}\] Mile from the point, and

two ftreets back from the Muskingum.

Decem^r 12th Governour S^t Clair arrived here, and on the 30th fail'd for Kaskaskias, during his stay here. I was frequently in his company, dined with him feveral times, once at his own house, he treated me with great politenefs and affability, did me the honour of appointing me a Justice of Peace & unus Quorum, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas — and before he left the place Judge of Probate during the absence of Judge Putnam. Had I been so fortunate as to have got down River before he left this for N York I think with you, I might have ftood a good chance for the other Office. He was pleased on my thanking him for the honor he had done me, to reply, that "he wished it was in his power to give me fomething more permanent, that he felt a very great inclination to ferve me, for tho' our acquaintance was fhort, he was no ftranger to my character."

The Governour expected to have met Judge Turner here and that both he and Judge Parsons would have attended him in his Tour, the fate of the latter must have reached you long before this time. The Laws which have been enacted here are good, but we fuffer greatly for want of others, our prospect of relief is distant, the Gov^r will be absent at least fix months and another Judge must be appointed before anything can be done for us, as Judge Symms has too much business of his own at the Miamis to admit of his fpending much time here, where the Seat of Government will be (I think) for fome time. Whether further application in my behalf will be proper I leave entirely to your friendship and better judgment. The conjecture here, I find is, that Gen¹ Putnam or M¹ Cutler will be appointed, no one, Col Sproat excepted knows I was ever on the list, this he informed me he had from M¹ Lear.

I hope in my next to entertain you with something more pleasing than my own Affairs. M^{rs} G admires this country, the temperance of the Climate and finging of birds in Winter charm her. The joins in most cordial Wishes for your happiness with

Dear Sir Your Friend and

P. S. Servant J Gilman.
Please to present my Compliments to Mefs Livermore & Foster. Mr Langdon & Mr Wingate, my best regards to your Brothers J T & Nat. I take the liberty of enclosing a Letter to my Son.

Honourable

Nicholas Gilman Esquire Member of Congress New York

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Mrs. Peter Gilman to Patty Rogers.1

erbur. [Newburyport]

dear Patty

I Received your agreeable letter by M^r Gilman it allways gives me plasuer to hear of your wellfare which I ever regard with the tenderest concern. it gratifys & pleses me that you^r visit to Boston was made so agreeable & profeetable by many valuable presents & finding you^r brothers & other friends well. you^r being perticuler affords me satisfaction in reading or hearing any good that falls to your share. we all expecte^d to see you on

¹ Patty Rogers was a daughter of Mrs. Peter Gilman's Exeter pastor, Rev. Daniel Rogers, whom Mrs. Joseph Gilman makes fun of in a letter, October 10, 1772. He was minister of the Second Parish, started by those in sympathy with the Whitefield movement in 1743.

your return from boston the young Robbins seem^d much disapionte^d however as it was not in your power we excuse you. I expect to go to plymouth the last of this mounth but the though^{ts} of takeing so longe a Journey at my time of life & in my feabel state allmost discorages me from attempting it however I hope I may return here again Should be glad to see you before I go if it sutes

your converntes -

M^r Cary set out on a Journey yesterday for new york for his health with his Uncle Cary at Charlstown it was the advise of all his friends that he should take this opportunity as it^s a fine Season—it will be very maloncholy for Debby to be left alone in M^r Carys absence & I leve her with regret—here we have no certain doeelling place & may we seecke one to come that has a sure foundation living religion is a grand reality the power of Jesus upon the heart will inffluence the chiristen to live in the fear of god—M^{rs} Cary joins me in our affectiont^e regards to you & M^r [illegible] & beleve me your truely affec^t frind

Jane Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman went east early in this year and was married in Plymouth, February 4, 1790, to Hannah Robbins. They stayed in New England until June when they started across the mountains on horseback. We have a vivid description of the perils of the journey twenty-nine years later (1817) and the conditions of travel must have been much worse at this time.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, New York.

Boston February 27th 1790.

Dear Sir

The repeated instances of politeness and friendship you have shewn our family, induces me to forward to your care Sir, a large packet to my father.—As an apology for my giving you this trouble, Sir, I mention my having had the pleasure of effecting a settlement of my fathers accounts as a member of the Board of War. Contrary to the expectation of the General Court, particu-

larly the Portsmouth interest (who most cordially hate every person connected with Exeter) the Committee reported a Balance due my father. This is a piece of intelligence that will afford my good parents the greatest satisfaction, which makes me more anxious to have a

speedy and safe conveyance.

I was much disappointed in not having the pleasure of seeing you at Exeter—my father wrote sometime since, respecting purchasing a reserved Lot of Land, the property of the Publick. If these reserved lots should be for sale Sir, you will lay a fresh obligation on us by giving early information—the one mentioned above is contiguous to a part of our land and would be a very convenient addition—it Contains about 300 acres—If my father should send any Letters to your kind care Sir, I shall be much obliged if you will forward them to your brother Nath¹ at Exeter. I am Sir with respect & esteem

Your obliged & very hum^b Ser^t

Ben Ives Gilman.

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mrs. Joseph Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth June 6th, 1790.

Will my dear M^{rs} Gilman give me leave to addrefs her, upon a painfull subject to me? That of parting with my dear Child, I once pleas'd myfelf with the fond expectation that my Children, (particularly my daughters) would live near me and be the solace of my declining years.

"How I dreamt, of Joys perpetual, in perpetual

change."

A firm belief that perfect wisdom and love authorizes evry event stills my mind, and is my only anchor in the storms of Life, happy should I be if this thought was always imprefs'd on my mind; and always influenced my conduct. I then should not be too much elated, with profperity, or deprefs' with adversity.

Hannah will be happy in a companion I have not the least doubt. his disposition I know, is amiable, not a cir-

cumstance that is not agreable but when I think of the distance.—all the fortitude I am posses'd of is too little

to suppress the starting tear.

I wish the connection may add greatly to the happyness of your family. I ask leave to commend her to you as a Child, I speak with confidence when I say I know you will be a mother to her. You know the hopes, and fears, of a parents heart, O! how many avenues for pleasure, and pain, I impose silence on my pen, I don't know where it will stop on this subject.

My Mother desirs her most affectionate regards to you, she has injoy'd her health the winter pas'd, as the hot weather comes on, she is very languid. It is a great satisfaction to have her with me, to have it in my power

to contribute to her comfort.

My regards to M^r Gilman in which M^r Robbins joins, he intended writing to him but Company has prevented With evry sintiment of esteem I subscribe your sin-

cere friend

Jane Robbins

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Mrs. Francis Le Baron Goodwin to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth June 12th 1790.

My Dear Sister

You will be agreably fupris^d to see the Bearer of this Letter.² Our dear Brother was so disappointed in not seeing you before you went your Journey, that he was quite unhappy, he could neither Eat, Drink, or Sleep, (as the saying is) at last determined to persue you if he went to the Ohio—after you. We all encouraged the Motion knowing it would be an Unspeakable Satisfaction to you; & a Gratification to us. O My dear that Horrid never to be forgotten Morning of our Seperation. Such Pangs I am sure I never experienced before. But I will not think. You have a good & Affectionate Husband that

¹ Mrs. Chandler Robbins's mother was Jane Bethune, who married (1) Capt. Moses Prince and (2) Col. Peter Gilman.

² Isaac Robbins, Hannah's next younger brother.

will do all in his Power to difpell any gloomy Idea's that arise to disturb you, & we must be Contented. You will be happy to see Our dear Brother - who, I think, gives a strong Proof of Fraternal Affection. Hope he will not come in upon you very Suddenly—I fear the Ill Consequences of Suprise - in your Critical Situation. Do be Careful of yourself—hope you bore Journeying well— Pray write me by My B^r write particularly, every thing I want to know, or should ask you in Private. Do my Dear sifter write me by every Oppertunity. You cannot think what a Satisfaction it will be to me, when in at Penobscot, where I shall Certainly go — if I live — Early in the Fall. I had a letter from my dearest b... Chandler 2 he says Bid Mr Gillman & Isaac good bye — & God Bless them — & Kifs Hannah for me, tell them I am sorry I cannot see them—But wifh them every Blefsing. it is late—I must conclude - May the All Gracious God Be with & Blefs you & Yours — More particularly support you in an Hour of deftrefs & Peril.

Tell Mr Gillman I love him much have time to say no

more.

Your Affectionate Sifter J. Goodwin.

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Joseph Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman.

Marietta 16th June 1790.

Dear Sir

My last bore date Feb^y 23^d and was in answer to yours of the 5th October last, this I forwarded by a Captain Thompson who brought Dispatches for the Governor and General Harmar since which I have rec^d your agreeable favour dated January 2^d and on the 2^d instant I rec^d a packet from my son and the N York papers you were so obliging as to inclose—but no Letter, from which circumstance I fear mine by Thompson had not reached you—This gives me pain, not that my Letter contained anything very interesting to either of us, but the fear lest you should think I decline cultivating a correspence so

² Chandler Robbins, Jr., the eldest brother.

much in every respect to my advantage—We had the pleasure to hear by Judge Putnam that you were well when he left N York — his Appointment, his appointment, puts an end of all hopes from that quarter—At the same time it confirms to me the Office of Judge of Probate to which I was appointed by the Governour during his absence - This with my Commitsion of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas takes up much of my time and is of some though no great emolument, but will increase as the Country settles — whether this increase will be rapid in proportion to that of the Country down the Ohio, or slow as it has hitherto been, depends intirely on our Fathers the Congress. Could the Indians be brought to such terms either by chastizement or treaty, as it would be safe to fettle our Lands from 20 to 40 Miles from the Rivers Ohio & Muskingum, I think in a very few Years we should be entitled to a Seat in Congress. Yesterday to our inexpressible joy and fatisfaction, Major Doughty and Captain Hart arrived from a long tour of 5 Months in the Indian Country. We had frequent Reports that the Major & his Party were cut off by the Savages—He was attacked on the Tennese River by 40 Indians in 4 Canoes and had all his men killed or wounded but four, the Indians continued to pursue him for four hours, and then left him, but as you will have every particular from him by the person who carries this.

I expect my Son with his Spouse is now on the Road and that we shall have the pleasure of receiving them in the course of this month. Excuse my not enlarging at this time, as the Boat that carries Major Doughtys Dis-

patches is now ready to depart.

M^{rs} G joins me in most cordial wishes for your health and happiness.

Adieu

J. Gilman.

Wednesday Afternoon.

You, my dear Sir, will excuse the inconectness of the foregoing, when I assure you I had but a few minutes to write, being informed that the Boat would leave the Garrison early in the morning and besides being obliged to attend our Court of Common Pleas now setting. This will be handed you by M^r John Morgan fon of Col. Morgan of N Jersey, he is a Cadet in General Harmars Regi-

ment, and is much esteemed by the Officers and by all his acquaintances - is well acquainted with this Country in General From him you may receive much information respects this Country, he is very intimate in our Family, and can give information of any little particulars you may wish to know respecting our fituation, manner of life &c &c. Any attentions paid to him while in New York will add to the Obligations I am already under and will be properly acknowledged by me. The Governour & Secretary Major Sargent left this Place the 30th of December for Kaskaskias, in this Grand tour, 'twas proposed to visit all the Settlements in this wide extended Government. — I received a Letter Yesterday by Major Doughty from my good Friend Major Sargent dated at Cayhokia April 30th, he informs me they were waiting for the Judges Symms & Turner to proceed on their businefs. Major Doughty thinks they will not return before the month of October. The Secretary is on the best terms with the Governour - and is so much my friend that should anything turn up worthy acceptance I think so far as depends on those Gentlemen I shall have the offer of it in preference to any person now in this quarter. The Office to which young Mr Parsons was appointed and now holds of recorder of Deeds in this County, is the only one I know of at present - fhould he not return and fettle in this County, as I think it probable he will not, will be to disposed of -I think will be worth attention, and may be had unlefs promised conditionally to another person, previous to his and my arrival here. I am informed his views are to be appointed Secretary to a Land office, should one be established in this Country, and that he went fo far as to make overtures of selling out his Commission before he left us—this appears probable to me as he is a Speculater of the first order, far exceeding his late father, yea so far exceeding him, as he exceeded common men - A propos of Speculation - This Country opens a boundless field, and I think the foundation for plentiful fortunes may be easily laid by a prudent person, whose genius leads him that way - but as it is entirely out of my line - wishing for nothing more than a good farm—I shall content myself if I can obtain the

Congress Lot mentioned in my former Letter—or one up the Muskingum about 15 Miles as the River runs and 12 by Land from this place, which I will mark out in the Plan which I intend forwarding in my next. Our furveys are not vet complete, as soon as they I will lose no time in making out and forwarding to you accurate plans of the Rivers and principal parts of the Land in the Ohio Purchase. Provisions have been fearce and dear in this Settlement, owing to great quantities of Indian Corn being cut off by an early frost last Crop both here and up the River, and very large quantities fhipped for New Orleans where Flour has been current this Year at 20 Dol P barrell. But our prospects of Wheat & Rve are now good the latter will be fit for the fickle in 2 or 3 weeks. The people are industrious year beyond anything I ever faw in the Eastern States—And there is more than three times the Indian Corn planted than will be fufficient for the present Inhabitants for another feason including what will be necelsary to fatten our fwine. We have now plenty of vegetables as Peas Beans &c in our earliest Gardens, some of our early or Canada Corn has put out for Ear. I have in my Garden a few Peas up which were planted from feed of this years growth, tho the first crop was not planted till the 29th March and are on a flat Land no way remarkable for early vegetation.

In fhort I am more and more pleased with the Country—so kind a foil and fo temperate a Climate, captivates every attentive mind—We want but two things to make us completely happy—The Absence or a permanent peace with the Natives—and the presence of those choice friends we left behind—that we shall fee many of them here in a few years I doubt not, though I much fear whether you my dear Sir among the number—but however this may be, may the best of Heavens blefsings attend you wherever you are.

Yours fincerely J Gilman. My best Respects to Your brothers—Also to M' Livermore M' Foster & M' Wingate—fhall write to them as I have opportunity.

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Mrs. Peter Gilman to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth Nov^r 29 1790

My dear grandaughter

I find no distance of time or place can make me unmindfull of one so near & dear to me as you are I found it a great tryal when we parted last the thought of the longe & fatuging journey & the many dangers I aparnde you would have to meet with, gave me greate concern on your account, till we were made happy by your letter giving the account of your safe arriavel, found your dear parents well who received you with joy & that you were perfectly contented in fine health & everything agreeable. This was a great relefe to my anxious mind, especially that you found a tender & affectionate mother to comfort & take care of you under the circumstances you ware in. but of the uncertainty of all our earthly injoyments & often that we most depend on for help & relefe - how destressing the account in your letter that your dear mam is dangerously sick of a feve[r ev]en life dispaired of, & how melancholy to lose so valu[able] so amiable & lovely a friend in the vigour of life & mi[dst] of her usefullness. if she should be taken away it would be a grevious lofs to all her connections but my dear child I feel peculiarly distresst on your account as I think you never wanted a mother so much as you do now however stil hope in god we shall yet rejoyce in her recovery.—I am pleased to hear Isaac likes his situation & imployment I hope his conduct & behaviour will be agreeable to all his connections thare & have my love to him tell him I dayly think of him with the tenderest affection. My kind regards to your dear Mr Gilman who I allways esteem^d & lov^d & more so now than ever & sincere respects to your dear parants we longe to hear good news from a fare country, may a holy Sovereign god prepare us for his blessed will to his kind provedence & power grace & marcy who is every ware present I desire to commit you my dear child & beleve affect^e grandmaa me your truly Jane Gilman

¹ Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman's eldest child, Jane, named for her mother, grandmother, and sister, was born November 9, 1790.

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Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Robbins had a large family. Those whom we hear of frequently in these letters are: Chandler, born in 1762, went at first to Hallowell, Me., married Harriet Lothrop and moved to Boston; Jane Prince, who married Dr. Goodwin; Isaac, next younger to Hannah, who was a missionary in the middle west and then moved to Alexandria, Va., and married Mary Douglas Howell; Philemon, who was apparently not normal; Samuel Prince, who lived for some time in Connecticut and took a church in Marietta in 1806, married Martha Burlingame and died there in 1823; Peter Gilman, who married Abba Dowse, and became a physician, living at Roxbury, Mass.

Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plimouth Decr 19 1791

My dear, very dear Children,

None but they who have ye Heart of a Parent, can have any Idea of the Sensations we, at this moment feel respecting our dear ones—all at a great distance, except ye 3 little ones—Chandler at ye West Indies if alive, & Jenny at Penobscot, the others you too well know the Situation of, But our principal concern & Anxiety at present is on your Acct who live on ye Ohio, at this alarming Period.

Imagine the distrefs of ye friends of those poor Soldiers, who went from us into your country, since last Fryday Evening, which was ye first we heard of ye surprizing & awful acct from our Army—We have, as yet, had no official Accts—expect ym daily—but a Letter from a Gent in NYork to his friend in Boston, says, that the Indians have gained a shocking Victory—killd 700 privates & 27 Officers—among whom is poor Winslow Warren & probably some if not all ye young Soldrs from Plimo are flain, Torry &c &c whose friends are filld with grief in anxs Expect of ye Event—But poor Mrs Warren seems inconfolable. But what shall we say of our dear Children & their connections there? Tis natural to

think & forbode y° worst — We cant but fear greatly for you. The savage foe, flushd at y° Victory they have obtaind, will in all probability pursue y° Advantage, & is there not reason to fear will fall upon y° new Settlements — at least greatly distress & put them in perpetual fear! May a merciful God restrain their rage & prevent

ye dreadful effects of their barbarous Spirit.

We have a proposition to make to you, my children, to which must intreat you to attend—We cannot but think, & most earnestly advise you, as a rational & prudent measure, that considering the present gloomy situation of affairs wth you & the uncertainty when things will be in a quiet state & above all, considering your (M^r G) ill State of health and y^e increase of y^t distress & disorder upon you, you had better (with your dear ones) remove from thence to us, at least for a season. What are all earthly possessions, where health is wanting? especially if in addition to this, one lives in fear, on Acc^t of y^e most inhuman of all Enemies! You dont conceive y^e Joy & Satisfaction you w^d hereby give us. Our house arms & heart are open to receive you. Do think of it, my dear Children.

The affair of your growing Disorder, is really serious & affecting. We received your last, of Octr 9th, about 10 days ago, wherein you give particulars of your complaint—& agreable to your defire, I have made a businefs of making every possible enquiry (without particularizing too much, as it respects you) respecting such kind of complaints & cant but have some reason to fear, your apprehensions are not without foundation—& your not voiding any gravelly substance or sediment leaves fome grounds to fear it may be ye beginning of ye formation of a Stone in ve bladder — I have consulted Doct Thacher. who is really skilful, in theory & practice. - And he wished me to ask you ye following questns "Have you any pain abt ye region of ye Kidneys? & does it extend to ye bladder? "Are ye fits of pain attended with a Nausea or vomiting? "After ye paroxisms of pain are over is your Urine turbid, or do you observe a mucous Sediment in it? "Is ye Urine ever tinged with blood especially after Exercise? & does exercise bring on pain near ye neck of ye bladder? Have you pain in, before & after discharging urine. "Is a free discharge of urine fometimes suddenly

interrupted so y' you are obligd to void it [torn] Drops? "Finally, Do you ever feel a numbne's down ye Thigh & Leg?" In your next you" please to reply. I have met with 2 Recipes, since receiving your last, (In my other letter of ye 17 Oct. I wrote you 2 or 3 others, particularly ye very simple one of "rubbing all ye parts thoroly & freq'ly with Hogsfat or Lard" which has actually done wonders in gravelly complied & those like yours), The new ones are "Wild Carrots" a Decoction. Yr other, Gen' Warren gave me, whose Lady has had much of yr complaints in years past. "A large handful of ye fibres or roots of garden Leeks, simmered gently in 2 Qts foft water, till reduced to one." A pint taken ab' 3 times morning noon & night, a proper dose for an adult pr day. In ye instance given, ye patient persevered five weeks &

then was compleatly relieved.

If after all, my dear Child, you shld find ye disorder continues & increases, & there shid be reason to fear there is a Stone - Dont delay too long I intreat you looking out for speedy, & ve best advice & assistance -And I am particularly glad to be able to inform you & also requested by others to inform you, that there is a Gentleman now refiding in this State, at Jamaica plains, in Roxby, Doctor Le Prilette by name, who has the highest Reputation of any man in America (in ye Opinion of ve best Physicians in Boston & near us) as a Surgeon & particularly for disorders of ye kind yo complain of -And when cases have come to require ye Operation of ye knife, he has performed it in ve most incomparable & succefsful manner to the admiration of some of ve greatest men of ve faculty in this part of ve world. Those of 'em in Boston, have so great an Opinion of him, that (rare as it is) they, tis sa, actually follicited him to move to Roxby to be near them.—& have made him a Member of vr Medical Society. — I exceedingly wish you cod fee & advife with him, if y' complaints continue. Well, dear Children, we can but commend you to ye care & mercy of ye algracious & powerful God, who can do all for you for your Souls & Bodies yt you need. O look to him — Cry to him daily for every blefsing you want. He is a Refuge & he alone can fave you in time of need. No special news among us. Mrs Hedge, our young neighbor, has a little Son, born ve Day your Bror faild for W. Indies, 14th

of Nov^r. M^r Dunkin ¹ has returned, & removed his wife & family to Philad^a—in comfortable Situation. Pray write us oftener—fend to go P^r post from Pittsburg—I am oblig^d to fend this in that way, as I have no other way & I cant be filent. Aunt T.² goes for Bostⁿ in y^e Morning. by her I send it to y^e Office. May Heaven guard, defend, blefs & fave you. All ours fend Love to all you as this is to all 3 of you, Benj. Han. & Ike—not forgetting many kifses to little Jane & best regards to y^r dear Parents.

Your very affect^t Father Chand^r Robbins and mother Jane

Dec. 21st. Letter not gone yet (by bad weather) I forgot an import Article I intended to infert, which is The Springs at Saratoga, which have of late been prov so efficacious for gen Disorders, have very lately been found remarkable for complaints of y nephritic kind, an instance mentioned (if not more y one) in w they have actually dissolved a stone in y bladder which is an additional Motive to induce you to come this way. May God blefs every attempt for your relief: To confirm y above, Gen Warren, my informant, adds y y w Waters are of such a powerf soluting Quality, y they have actually, (in a few days after thrown in) dissolved a Stone of y Grindstone kind.

Dec. 22^d y^e shock^g News y^sday confirm^d worse yⁿ at first report^d Warren was fee am^g y^e N^o of Slain. But friends anx^s to hear whither Torry, Kingsly, Whiting, &c, from Plim^o are living. Write us if y^o know. Or come & tell us y^rselves.

[torn]TON DEC 28 PAID 5
Mr Benjamin Ives Gilman
Marietta
Western Territory
Ohio

pr post to Pittsburg via Philad^a

¹ Mr. Dunkin was the husband of Mrs. Chandler Robbins's cousin, Susan Bethune, daughter of Mrs. Peter Gilman's brother, George Bethune, and his wife, Mary Fanueil. "Aunt Bethune," as George Bethune's widow is called in these letters, was living in Little Cambridge. She had another married daughter, Penelope, who was Mrs. English, of Boston.

² Irene (Robbins) Thompson.

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

1792.

Oct. 5. I love to open my desk, and take a sheet of paper, and fold it up in this way, if I only say my dear Hannah. Par says "I thought you would alter your mind, tho" you determind to write only by post in future."

12. Din'd at Deacon Dimans, wedding dinner, dear for all has brought his wife home, a neice of D^r Thachers Sucky Gray of Barnstable, Anna says you knew her.

22. Your Par and I went to Boston. He had a great inclination to hear the Tricentary sermon that is to be preach'd by Dr Belknap, on the discovery of America by Columbius. as we ware riding over kingston hill, met a man that inform'd us, that Mr Little was ship wreck'd of New York, and they had put back to Bedford, to refitt. poor man, I felt destress'd for him, and his wife, how dreadfull it must be, we put up at M^r English's, had not a very agreable time Company, however it was but one day, went wensday morning and breakfasted at M^r Mackpeaces. She was very glad to see me, "how do you do, Mrs Robbins, I am glad to see you look so well, I expected when your Children left you, you would be as dead as a Bat in winter. I have all most worred to death about Hannah, myfelf, but by all I can learn she is quite happy." I took your last letter out of my pocket and read to her, she was very much gratify'd. she says, tis Hannah yet. Your Par inquir'd after Mrs. Battell, she is not arived in Boston yet, you are a good child, to write all oppertunitys, it is a great releif to our minds, as we can't help feeling anxious for your safty. Your last letter my dear Hannah has determin'd me to keep on writing, and send it when I can, if you ever have my pacquet, you will hear all about Chandler, and not think he was negleted by us. Par says he thought he had wrote very particularly about him, in all his letters to you. when you say anything about your dear little Children, I feel as if I long for wings, to fly to them. as to Isaac I hope my

¹ Joseph Gilman, second, was born June 23, 1792.

Dear son Benjamin, will advice him what to do. I hope that years, and experience, will teach him wisdom, poor dear Child seams to be wandering about, without a protecter or friend, I wish it was in our power to put him in buisness, tho if it was, I am not certain it would be best for him.

as we were riding home we met Major Thomas, and M^{rs} Burr, we stop't and spook to them, ask'd her how she did very unwell indeed she answer'd, Major Thomas said Mrs Burr has the vapours, I said I am very sorry, and in a very chearfull way, ask'd her, how far she intended to ride to get red of them, she bust into tears. Maj^r Thomas said, Mrs Burr, thinks we are all going to destruction, but I hope not. I never was more suprized, did not know that any thing aild her, she that was all life, and sprightliness, is now the picture of melancholly and dejection. we call'd at John Seaver's, Mrs Rufsell their, Nancy expects to be confin'd soon. I ask'd Mrs Rufsell what was the matter with Mrs Burr. she says, she is afraid the family will come to want, O! how dreadfull such fears are, tis the divil all over, those people whose circumstance are independent are more subject to those fears, than the poor that don't know where thay shall get the next meal.

28. We had the great, the Learned, Mr. Peneman to day, preach'd all day, just the same conceited, out of the way mortal, he ever was. aunt never hear'd him before, she said tho' she had heard so much about him, it exceeded evry Idea she had form'd. as soon as he begun she thought of your taking him off. each &c I was very carefull not to catch her eye, I am sure, if I had I could not have behaved with decency.

29. Esq^r Watson come in this fore noon for your Par to go and see M^{rs} Burr, she is raveing destracted, got up last night and attempted to destroy herself. Prifsa happen'd to wake, and saw her mother puting a rope round her neck: she call'd the family; and by that means it was prevented. they are greatly destrefs'd, as you may well suppose, they are obliged to keep every thing out of her way.

¹ Aunt Thompson.

Your Par, and I, at a wedding, at Mrs Cottons. Betsey Cotton, to a Mr Hafkell, of Rochester, a very good match for her, tis said; a very steady man, and a good farm. Ward is a very genteel young fellow. I thought while I was their, if any perfons are to be envied tis those parents, that have their Children settel'd, where their is a polsability of seeing them. what led me to the thought was, receiving a letter from Chandler he is very well, has as much buisnefs as he can do, is pleas'd with the place, has thoughts of byeing him a place on the river, and setteling their. letter from Jenny she is well — Mr Trible that moved their, is return'd with his family. they say, that part of the eastward will be deftrefs'd for corn this winter. I am sorry that Jenny did not stay when she was here. I know she wanted much to stay if she could, went away very dull.

Nath Lewis has a daughter. Nancy Seaver, a Son. she was very bad, ill 2 days. Aunt has had another spark, an Uncle of D^r Mercy, from Stockbridge, aunt never saw him, or heard of him, till D^r Mercy introduced him to her. Lydia says, she wishes M^{rs} Thompfon was married; she is sure the girls will stand no chance till she is.

29. Annual Thanksgiving. aunt and Robbins here. a very fine day, after dinner aunt, and I, went up in the back Chamber, and talked of our dear absent Children. Par gave the Boys leave to play in the garding for exersise. let us said I fancy that Mr Gilman and Hannah are below the bank, He leading little Jane up the steps, and Hannah behind him, with her Babby in her armes,* Jenny & Isaac coming out of the gate, and Francis taking hold of her apron, saying I want to go to Mar Robbins, she is up at the window. aunt asked, where's Mr Goodwin? O down to the eastward. Par call'd us to tea, and the pleasing scene vanish'd. parish, have bought the Bafe Voil, of Mr Inglee, for public worship it was introduced this day. Mrs Burr is something more composed, when I think of your dear little Children I am quite impatient to see them. * Chandler playing with the Baby over your shoulder.

Dec. 4. Sam Thacher call'd in to see us, going to Jail in an hour, so He thought he would spend that hour with us. after going thro' so many Courts he has lost his case, and can't pay the cost. it hurt my feelings, to have a poor old man, sent to Jail at this season of the

year.

10. We had 2 french Gentlemen din'd with us to day when aunt come from Boston last she brought one with her, she boarded one last summer by the name of Peraux, Pero he was call'd, who was so pleas'd with his situation, that he advised his friend to come here, your Par is instructing him in English, his name is Le Batt a very amiable young man, I never felt a stronger atachment to a stranger, the reason of their coming here to learn our language, is, there are so many frenchmen in Boston, in confequence of the troubles in

the West Indias, that they can't learn so well.

15. Your Par received a letter from Judge Gill to day desiring him to supply Sam Thacher with clothing, and every thing necessary for his comfort while he is in goal, and he will pay the account on sight. Mr Gill chuses he should remain in confinement, the time alloted for taking the poor mans oath, Then he will come upon Mr Bourn for damages. Thus has ended the matter that has been the subject of so much talk, and the sanguine expectations of getting a great Estate came to nothing, I think Mr Gill is very kind to provide for Mr Ts comfort now he is confind, when he put him to so great expence to defend his cause. Mr Gill told your Par that he had spent 500 dollars.

I read a letter to day that come from Hannah Le Baron, she is in the West Indias, went there with a Cap^t DeWolf¹ that married a daughter of Gov Bradford, he had accumulated a fortune, in the African trade, the last voyage he made, one of the poor negros broke out with the small Pox a day or 2 after he saild, upon which he inhumanly order'd her thrown over

¹ Capt. De Wolf, of Bristol, R. I., married a daughter of William Bradford and Mary LeBaron. Rev. Thomas Robbins mentions visiting him in 1799 at his home at Mt. Hope, R. I., where "he has a set of china ware which cost two hundred and fifty dollars in Canton."

board; when he got home, search was made for him, upon which he was obliged to fly the country. Went to the W I, and sent for his Wife and family. Hannah had liv'd with them so long, that she was quite willing to go with them. she says, She is very happy and injoys fine health, mentions our family very affectionately. I think I shuld have stay'd behind, if I work'd hard for a living rather than have lived in the greatest affluence with them under those circumstances.

If their's a power above He must delight in virtue And that, that He delights in must be happy.

19. 'Tis a long time since we had a letter from you. evry post night "cold, hott, wett, or dry", Par setts out in hopes of a letter from you. I can tell, when I see him return, whether he has one, if he dont say a word; the Post office is at Esqr Watsons. I hope you will not be backward, on account of postage, tis only 1/6 from fort Pitt.

just heard Dr Hayward is in town from Georgia destin'd with the troops to the Ohio, you will be glad to see Nathan I know. Mrs Burr is much better, to day she din'd with the family. your Gran Mar is as well this winter, as ever I knew her, appears chearfull, can hum a tune as well as ever, "when serious life, void moments spairs." as to Anna she is not so well, poor girl I am afraid cant live long. Philemon is a fine boy, loves work: I think, I could not keep house without him. Sammy Prince is very studious; his master says he may enter College next summer, but we think it is best he should be one year older. Peter is in his latten testement, fond of learning. a M' Briggs a young gentleman that is courting Debby Sampson is a privett schoolmaster. I think I will send you a letter that Debby sent to your sister, when she was here. It is a genuine peice of witt. Mr B intends to study divinity. Debby must sow all her wild oats. I was in company the other day with Mrs Sampson, one of the company ask'd her if she had done with the thought of moveing into town, she said Debby chose to live at Plymton, and

she was Law, and she soppofs'd she would be gosple

too, when she had Briggs.

29. I often amuse myfelf by reading over your letters, find one that I intended, when I rec^d it, to answer but had not time by M^r Little. He call'd for my packet in a great hurry. you mention your going to housekeeping it would give me the greatest pleasure to see how you manage family matters. you sett out with courage, intend to out shine your mothers, I dare say we are agree'd that you should. I recollect some lines, I think in D^r Youngs works, that pleas'd me very much.

O! May I steal, along the vale; of humble life, secure from foes.

My friend sencere, my judgment clear. and gentle businefs; my repose.

My mind be strong, to combat wrong. gratefull to Heaven, for favours shown, Soft to complain; for others pain but bold, to triumph, ore my own.

when you tell us of the delightfull prospect from your Chamber windows, I shuddered least you should see Indians coming up or down the rivers. I hope my dear Children are safe under divine protection. May the Candle of the Lord allways shine upon your tabernacle. "Where we have a tent, God should have an alter."

We have had letters from Jenny, all well, I soppose tis the last we shall have this winter, dear Child expects to be confin'd. how very different your situation from hers. you never knew the want of a tender mother.

We had a letter from aunt Cary, giving us an account of the installment of a M^r Brown, at the uper Parish at Exeter, He came from Nova Scotia last summer married a neice of D^r Coffin's wife of Newbury, from his connection with D^r Coffin, he was introduced to M^r Spring who ask'd him to preach, and recommended him to Deacon Odiorn of Exeter, who ingaged him to preach several Sabbaths, which was followed by a call from the Church and parish, and he was last month install'd. D^r Haven made the first prayer M^r Macclintock preach'd from Acts 2^d, 22 M^r Thayer

of Kingston, pray'd before the Charge, D' Langdon gave the charge, M' Rowland the right hand of fellow-

ship, M^r Buckminister, made the last prayer.

This M^r Brown had been ordain'd in England, was only 4 years setted their, and left them with a design to come to America, He rec^d a licence from Lady Huningtons college.

Aunt Cary was at meeting, she says, Simon Wiggens, has bought your Gran Pars pew, the parish have bought old Coll Sam Gilmans house, for the new min-

ister.

Nancy, and Patty, Roggers, live by themselves, in a small house, that was M^r Rice's, they are set up in a small way of buisness their situation is very agreable, I thought you would be pleas'd with this account which I collected from Uncle, and aunt Cary's letters M^{rs} Giddins has her sences perfectly, but is a Cripple—Turzzah¹ lives with M^r Nath Carter at Newbury, now

I beleive I have told you all the Exeter news.

Jan^{ry} 1. 1793 I take up my pen, to wish my dear Children a happy new year. how soon my thoughts can fly over the Allegany mountains, and see you, put your hand over little Josevs face, and call him all the names you can think of, and your invention was fruitfull in this way. tell little Jane Mar Robbins will give her a new gown, when she can get any body to carry it. we din'd at gen' Warrins to day, Henry and his wife, live their, they have a fine baby. call it Mercy. They have not been to housekeeping yet. He says their is not a house in town to lett, that is fitt for a gentleman to live in. others think he don't go to housekeeping because he is in no way of buisnefs. only clerk of the general court. Mrs Burr so much better, that she din'd at Judge Thomas's, perhaps you will not know where that is, as the title will not sound natural, Mai^r Thomas is Judge of Probate for this County.

5. aunt come from Boston in the stage 2 to day Mrs

¹ Tirzah James had been the housekeeper at Col. Peter Gilman's in Exeter. She married in 1794, Samuel Brooks, who died in 1807. She made her home in later life with BENJ. IVES GILMAN.

² This is the first mention of a stage in these letters.

Minott and Polly Mayhew come in company with her, They are come to Sally Nickcolson's wedding, He, (that is, M^r Hez Jackson,) has ingaged the westerly half of our old house. Zep Harlow has bought M^r Englee's, and he has built a large brick house, near his works.

7. M^{rs} Hedge sent for me, to spend the afternoon with her and her mar tis the first time M^{rs} Burr has been their, and the first time I have seen her since her, derangment. I am sorry to say tis not M^{rs} Burr yet, she discovers a great anxiety—restlifsnefs, &c very

different from her natural disposition.

We have received a letter from my dear Chandler, with one inclosed for you, that you will have by D^r Hayward. we are really impatient to hear from you my dear Hannah. not a word since the 17 September, it never has been half so long since you left us. hope this post we shall have the pleasure, I want to hear whether M^r Little is arived safe, we felt for his mis-

fortunes at first setting out his journey.

10th. Par and I had been out last evening, as we got to our door, saw Isaac LeBaron coming out, gave Par his news Paper and told him, we had a letter from the Ohio, and that the office was shut we could not get it till morning, we were up very early, sent for our letter, when to our very great mortification, it was from our tennant at Branford. — allso had a letter from aunt Cary dated about 3 weeks ago, telling us that Oliver Dodge was going to the Ohio, by the first of this mounth, tho the time was paſs'd, we thought he might be detain'd, and wrote to you to be left at Mr Carys for him to take. however I did not regret it so much, as we shall send so soon by Dr Hayward.

13. Sally Nickolson wedding — Cake, wine, punch. —

14. Din'd with a large Company at Nath Jacksons I was suprised, we had a very genteel, elegant dinner, and with as littel fuse as ever I saw any where for so large a Company 20 sat at the table, very nice port, and evry

¹ Rev. Chandler Robbins's father was Rev. Philemon Robbins, pastor at Branford, Conn. for fifty years, and the reference was probably to his house.

else drefs't well, they say betsy Jackson, had the whole managment, and M^{rs} Bill Hall.—the morning after Sally, was marred, John Davis sent her, one doz of pictuers, that he bought at a vendue, some years ago, when Esq^r Mayhew's furniture was sold. was not that beautyfull? it discover'd so much sencebility, it realy affected me.

16. Hannah, I believe I will tell you, that thro the medium of some Gentlemen of note in Boston, your Par, has a diploma, from the University at Edinburgh, conferring on him the honour of a Doctorate, in Divinity. Par looking over my shoulder, says poh, what did you say anything about it for. I tell him because Children, must be pleased with evry expression of respec paid

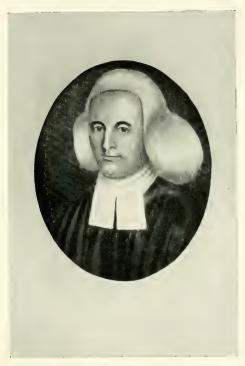
their parents.

We have had a most delightfull winter as ever I remember, no deep snows but warm rains, and fine serene weather after, but as poor master Joseph, us'd to say, I'll tell you what, Mr Robbins, winter will not rott in the sky, so we may expect a touch of it before spring.—While I am writing I feel so anxious to hear from all my dear Children at the Ohio, that I can't say no more now.

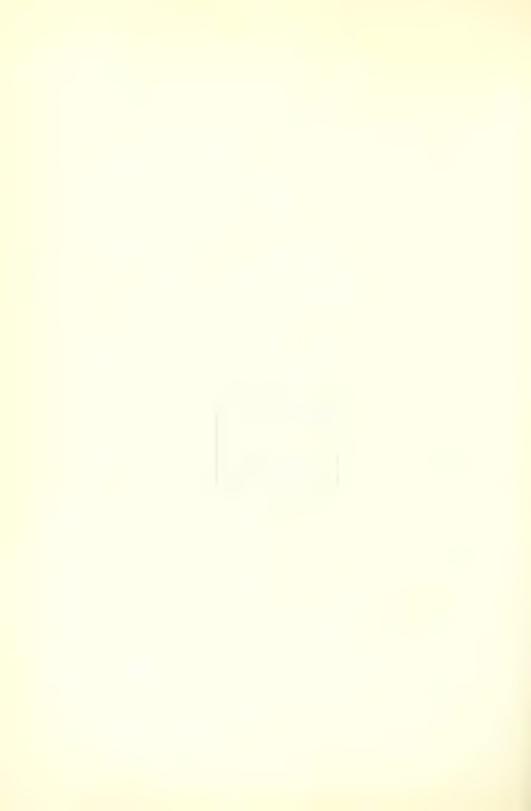
18. I am happy, by the recept of a long letter from you my dear Hannah, Dec 7, it gives us pleasure to hear what you say of your dear little Children, after you had told of the amiable qualitys Josy, was pofses'd of. did not you mean to say he was very much like his Paa. However, I know when I am writing I am apt to make

miftakes, so can easyly overlook it.

Par is disposed eno to gratify you Hannah you will have a carpet when we can send it but am suprized to hear you say, Josh is going to the Ohio, I am afraid he is gone, if he intended to go with Oliver Dodge,—we will take pains to inquire, as to the miniatures, I have seen some, that the person that advertises has taken, I can't say, I think they are good likenesses. We shall be happy to grant your request when we go to Boston in the spring, your mentioning, the Person that brought your letter on as far as Philadelphia, reminds me of M^{rs} Dunkins living their, did not I tell you that



DR. CHANDLER ROBBINS
From an ambrotype copy of a miniature
owned by his great grandson, Chandler
Robbins, of New York City



M^r D—n had return'd with a pritty property, and has carred his family their, about a year and half ago. aunt Bethune, Naney, and Nath, visited them last fall. went in the stage. how glad Susan would be to have you write to her. I am glad for her, she did not injoy herfelf perfectly, in the situation she was in at home. We din'd at Billy goodwin's to day, with a large company.

19. Barny Hedge, has a fine little daughter born this evening. she bids fair for a large family, only 14 months, between this and little Barny. Nancy Seaver is very unwell never has recovered her health since she was confin'd. She told M^{rs} Winslow, that she has not had a well day since she lay in with her first Child.

22. just as we were drinking tea, the frount door open'd quick, Paa said who can that be, I said tis Chandlers step, just as I spoke the dear Child come into the room, very unexpectedly, he had occation to come to Boston and thought he could not return without spending a day or 2 at home. I never saw him look better in health, he is much pleas'd with his imployment, but doth not think the compensation, is adequate to the Buifnefs, and told Mr Vaughn so, upon which he desird him to mention his own termes.

I put your last letter into his hand to read, when you say Isaac has sixty dollars a month, he say'd if that is afsertain'd, he will quit his present buisness and go to the Ohio and open a School. on the whole we think you ment a year, instead of a month.

24. great paraid for Plymo to day a civic feast. your Paa, by desire of the gentlemen of the town spoke an Oration in the meeting-house to the largest afsembly that I ever saw here. Dr Hayward will tell you all about it.

25. din'd with a large company at aunts to day, Mifs Mayhew, M^{rs} Minot, Lydia, Debby. D^{rs} Thacher, Hayward, and Bartlett. Billy Goodwin, M^r Briggs Par and I. our dear son went away this morning. has had a fine day. his stay was so short, that I can hardly realize that I have seen him. poor Jack Bartlett, dy'd last night.

Anna went home last Saturday very sick, she allmost dy'd, when she got ready to go, says she shall never come to town again. till she is brought to be buried, it was very affecting to us all, she has lived in our family 14 years, and as faithfull a girl, as ever was. Chandler had not time to go and see her, but sent her a dollar, it was kind in him, tho she shall never want for any thing, as long as she lives. Nancy Coad, wants very much to come here again, but I think I can't bare with her temper.

If we should get a carpet for you, how are we to send it? M^r Gilman must tell. we long to have it in our power to do more for Children. I am sure tis the greatest satisfaction in the world, to make them happy.

26. I have try'd to get you a nice handkerchief but can't, have sent a y^d of muslin the best there is in town, a pair of gloves, a ribon; as D^r H goes in the stage am afraid of making the bundle large, accept of them as a small

token of love from your affectionate Mother.

P S my dear Children grandmar must say a word if its only to tel you how much I love and longe to see you and the dear littel ones. I rejoyce to Hear of your wellfare which I ever regard with the tenderst concern and that your situation is so pleasant and agreeable it gives me comfort and satisfaction on your acount but when I can realize the meaning & certainty of eternal things, this swallows up all other cares for my Self & dear Children nothing can be of equal importance o that we may view things now as they will appear when we come to leave them my affectionate regards to your dear parants I hope your dear Mar Gilman has not quite forgot those old Exeter aquantences thay remember her with esteem & love I send a pece of Callico for a winter gond for littel Jane as a small token of my love - dear children farewell may the god of love & peace dwell with & bless you is the wish and prayer of your truly affect grandmar Jane Gilman

I have thought, that I could with chearfullness go thro the fatigue of a Journey, to see my dear Children at the end of it, even to the Ohio, tis my duty to



Mrs. Chandler Robbins (Jane Prince)
From an ambrotype copy of a miniature owned
by her great grandson, Chandler Robbins,
of New York City



be contented and easy, in the situation I am in the I am call'd to meet with many things that are not joyous. aunt says she will write, Par is writing to Isaac. I would but have not time as tis allmost dark. Heaven blefs you, my dear, dear Children. do improve all oppertunitys to write. love to Your dear parents. from your affectionnate Mother Jane Robbins.

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The next letter has to do with the Scioto Company and nowhere can we find the matter so clearly put and in so few words as in Prof. Hulbert's volumes. ""The Scioto coterie was composed of an interesting crowd of promoters and speculators; their operations, individual, cooperative and international in scope, throw light upon the financeering and speculation of the first years of the republic's life." "Their correspondence of the time shows no intention to better by one penny a single property that came into their hands, no intention to create a dollar's worth of wealth." They contracted for a large number of acres on the Ohio, which they did not survey, but held for a speculative value and which was supposed to be alongside of the Ohio Company's land. Joel Barlow was the agent whom Col. Duer, Craigie and the rest sent to Europe with very little instruction as to their plan. "The Yankee in him made him so practically presumptuous as to suppose that if the members of the group could not realize on their option in one way, they would be glad to do so in another." What the men wanted was a loan from abroad, what Barlow got was a "little emigration party of about five hundred" who arrived at Alexandria, Va., in the spring of 1790. "The pitiful account of their sojourn in Virginia has been frequently repeated. . . The brunt of the situation fell upon the Ohio Company. Its men piloted the unfortunates to

¹ Rec. O. P. of the Ohio Co., i, lxxiii-xci.

their lands for which the Scioto trustees never paid and built them temporary cabins." The Ohio Company lost eighty thousand dollars when, in 1792, the panic took down the three important Scioto trustees, "Duer and Flint of New York and Craigie of New York and Cambridge."

It is important to note that the Ohio Company was not involved, morally or practically, in this speculation. "At the time that the Scioto group was in the last throes of dissolution and Duer was being haled to jail, the Ohio Company was dividing an \$80,000 dividend among its stockholders." "That a group of men who had made a Massachusetts legislative committee afraid of their own shadows would have allowed this dividend to be distributed, if there could have been found the least reason why the Ohio Company should be held responsible for the Scioto speculation, will be credited by no sane person."

Joseph Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman.1

Marietta 6th January 1792-3

Dear Sir

I shall make no apology for troubling you with this Letter, your own benovolent heart will apologize for me the moment you are informed that the lubject of it is in favour of Strangers who have been grofsly imposed upon by some Speculating Americans. As you have been for a long time at the Seat of Government, you must have heard, that Certain persons calling themselves the Scioto Compa, by their Agent Mr Barlow in France sold large tracts of land in this part of the Country to a number of Gentlemen there, describing the same by a Plan there shewn as beginning nearly opposite the Mouth of the Great Kanawa and extending down the River Ohio to Scioto River, this Land was fold at a high rate and (as I am informed) one half the purchase fum was paid down

¹ Congress moved to Philadelphia, December 6, 1790, so this letter must have been directed there.

in specie, and for the remaining half Bills of Excha were drawn or such other fecurity given as makes it highly probable the whole, or far the greatest part of the purchase fum has been paid - In full confidence in the Right of the said Compa to dispose of said Lands a number of respectable Gentlemen embarked bring with them numbers of Servants to whom they promised Lands in consideration of their Service when the term of their Service expired, with provisions & Cloathing in the interim - In this fituation they arrived here, and began (two years ago) a fettlement at a place named Gallipolis, and perhaps no people were ever more industrious in clearing building &c &c in a new Country than they were, till on compleating the Survey of the Ohio Company's purchase it was found to include not only the Ground where their Town ftands but also a great part of the lands purchased of the Scioto Company — This news was nearly fatal to the fettlement, most of the Servants leaving their Masters, giving as a reason that they would not be able to give them the Lands agreed upon at the expiration of their Service. Notwithstanding every discouragement, a number of the principal Gentlemen have had the fortitude to remain on the Ground flattering they should have been secured in their titles by an exchange of Lands between the two Companies of Scioto and Ohio - or a purchase from the latter by the former Compa, which last it is probable would have taken place had it not been for the failure of Mr Duer, but this has set them all on floteand in this distrefsed fituation they have determined to apply to Congress for relief. Two of their Agents Monsieur De Rome and Monsieur Vandelbergen are now here on their way to Phila they are both men of good Characters (well known in this County to which Gallipolis belongs), and as such my dear Friend permit me to introduce them to you. They have not any particular plan, but mean to petition Congress generally unless otherwise advised when they arrive at the Seat of Government. Monr de Rome speaks good english, and appears to me too well bred to be troublesome. He will give you a true relation of their present situation and the various gradations that have led to it. - I have confined myself to simple facts, the general Government is fully adequate to redrefs all wrongs—Nor do I mean to include all the persons who are afsociates in the Scioto Company many of whom are Gentⁿ of known and acknowleged worth, but the immediate Actors have my utmost detestation.

I believe you never received my last letter, but as it only related to my Family and private concerns 'tis of no consequence. I only mention it to alsure you no Let-

ter of yours has been neglected.

I wish I could write you any thing new or that would be agreeable from this distant part of the world. But it is from you we are to expect news. We are constantly on our guard, tho' no damage has been done for some months past—at night we fasten our Gates and generally are confined at home for the night. — We have neither poverty nor riches, so have no reason to repeat the prayer in Proverbs but on the whole are contented with our Lot, which perhaps is really preferable to that enjoy'd by far the greatest part of mankind. My two Grandchildren are looked upon as none such here, I mean by Grandma' & Ma'—The oldest is a pratter and by the multiplicity and odness of her questions, is sufficient amusement when confined at home. The Boy is about 6 months old, is a fine hearty child, and bids fair (should he live) to make a fubstantial farmer, the honestest and most independent of all callings.

I suppose by General Putnam who is to leave this place soon for Phila you will receive a number of Laws, made for the Government of this Territory, the fummer past: I wish you would critically examine ym. There are some of them which want explanation and others not founded on any Laws of the original States, and contrary to that general Liberty which every man in every free Government has a right to, particularly that prohibiting the fale of foreign Articles except by persons licensed, this Law has a direct tendency to encourage monopolies, which ought to be carefully guarded against in every & especially in all new Countries—I wish you would con-

sult Mr Livermore on this Act.

My famaly join their most cordial wishes for your health & happiness with Dear Sir

Your humble Servant J Gilman.

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Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. IVES GILMAN, Marietta, Ohio.

Plim^o May 6th 1793.

To Benja, — Hannah, & Isaac, if with yo —

My dear, very dear Children - I long to see you - Oh when will ve wish for day come, when our anxious disires may be gratify^d? — I check ye fond thôt — perhaps never. in this world! - Well, if Heaven shod ordain so, let us, my dears prepare to meet in Glory - where friends will never regret absence & feparation more. - Do you think of these things, my dear Hannah? Do you practically think you shall soon die—that this world is not your home—that God has placed you here, only to prepare for Eternity—an Endless Eternity. O how solemn the Word! Or, on the other hand, is your Heart taken up with your dear babes & Husband & pleafant Enjoyments, fo that you have your happiness & hopes only in this life. — if so, my [chi]ld, you are in a miferable Condition, & like to be more so [torn] all these are dying Comforts, & may leave you, at an unlook for moment, & be blafted in Death—& then—what will you do, & where will you fly for help, if you have no God—no covenant interest in God, for your Support? Indeed, my dear Children, you must have a better Good than Earth affords, or you must be forever unfafe, forever wretched, in this dying World. —

I have had much, much Occasion to think of my Children of late — when I have feen such great — such astonishing Displays of divine Grace & power in this place, since Jan last — more especially among the younger part of this Congregation — Such a folemn Concern for their immortal Souls—fuch ardent & affecting Enquiries, "What shall we do to be faved" - quitting their vain Amusements, & vain Companions, & pressing into the Kingdom of God-& Numbers of them, who, a little while ago, would scarce hear much less talk of Religion, now. — with cheerful Joy speaking of the Glory of Christ & heavenly Thes, & longing for ye Conversion of others that they may join with them in adoring & praifing God

for redeeming love.

I think I said something to you, of this, when the Awakening first began here, in one of my last letters—but forget what, & of whom among your Acquaintance, I wrote - Some, I will here mention, who we have reason to hope & trust have met with a faving Change at this period & joind or joining to ye Church - Dr Cotton - Mr Prince—Barn^s Churchills Wife—Hannah Nicolson— Nancy Dunham—one Zilpah Morton (baptizd ve same day vou was.) Betfy Withrill—Jefse Bartlett—John Carver—voung Sam' Bradford—Poliv Le Baron— Polly Drew - Elijah Donham & his wife - two of Richard Holmes's Daughters—Lydia Holmes y' was, who marry Th's Torrey - Tomme Withrell - & many others. whom you are not acqd with. — The young Christians, with others who are under great Concern for y' Souls. meet feveral Evenings in the week, for religious Exercises & Conversation — We have frequent public Preaching in ve Meetinghouse — & Ministers from abroad visit & preach with us. You would be astonish at ve Alteration in this town, in ye Morals, & B[torn] of ye people, old & young — Strangers from other places, who [torn] here, observe, with Surprize, ve great Decency, order & good behav[torn]

The little Children appear unufually imprefsd - several of them we have reason to hope, have become new Creatures — they afsociate together of y own Motion, as often as two Evenings in a week, for ferious Exercises— 2 or 3 of those, whom we hope well of — lead in them pray with their Mates - read & fing - & break up in good feason, & retire home in order & peace - They have met twice at our house — We had a Defire to hear ym, in an adjoining Chamber—& the solemnity—& ye Exprefsions in Prayer, were perfectly surprizing — for Propriety. When they broke up, our people counted them as they went out, & there were 92 of 'em - & you would not have known, if you were below Stairs, that there was any body in ve house, belides our own family—such was ve Order & Silence & Solemnity among v^m. — from about 16 vears old, down to 8 or 7. — Never, truly, was there such a Day, since I knew this place - nor for above 50 years before the present time. — I know that God is not limited to time, nor place—but I have, at this remarkable feason, been ready to wifh y' my dear Children had been with us—when God has come so near to us, in fuch vifible tokens of his Grace & power, & been ready to fay, who knows but fome of mine might be made Sharers in this great Salvation.—O cutting thôt, to think that they shod remain in an unconverted, Christlefs State & live & die Enemies to God, & be lost forever—while others of their acquaintance, Companions & friends are calld into the Kingdom of Grace, & preparing for the Kingdom of

Glory!

However—God is every where—& thô it is, & must be owned to be a great privilege to live in a day & place, where the Spirit of God is poured out in gracious Effusions, for y° Conviction & Conversion of Sinners—Yet I will hope for you & yours, & for all our Children that they may not be left behind, when others are taken—but that God will, in infinite mercy, bring them all to y° Knowledge of themfelves—of yr perishing conditions by nature, & to look to Jesus Christ alone for help & Salvation.—Dont think yourfelves happy, be your circumftances what they may, but view yourfelves in an infin'tly dangerous & wretched Condition, till your peace is made with God, by a faving Interest in Chrift—thus you" be prepared to

live & prepd to die.—

We hear, now & then, from your Bro Chr & from Jenny—they are well—Jenny has another Son—born 15th Feb. last. Aunt Thomson & George, (who lives at home now, & ftudies wth Majr Thomas) are well, & fend Love—So does y' Grand Mar, who is well, for her—Old M^{rs} Bartlett is dead—So is M^{rs} Dowe & sev¹ others this Spring. — Mercy Rufsell lies dangerously fick — ye Event is fearful—Betfy Withrell alfo, of ve fame fever—but hope is getting better — O Hannah, I must tell you, since I mention her — you wod have been affected, you wod have wept, to have feen & heard Betfy, last week, when they were all affraid she wod die - look up upon us & fay -"Oh I have no will but Gods will—whither to live or die — I know tis a folemn thing to die — but I can fweetly glide thro ye dark valley, looking to Jesus, & putting my whole trust in him",—these were her words—Oh ve

power & Comfort of Religion in life or Death! & how beautiful in young perfons. Our dearest Love attends yo both & yr sweet Babes—Parents &c. Do write us, & ab' dear Isaac. Yr aff' Par's Chandler & Jane Robbins.

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Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymo, Deer 13th, 1793.

My dear, very, very dear Hannah. You & your best of husbands have been so good about writing, and it gives us so much heartfelt satisfaction to hear from you, that I criminate myself for writing no oftener—for I have been looking over in my Almanach my List of letters wrote to & recieved from, & I find yours exceeds mine to This hurts me - for I always thôt, & intended to write oftener than I recd—But will endeavor to make Amends in future, if God may please to afford Opp°. Last Evening, we were made very happy in recng yours of ye 1st Nov, by Mrs Hafkell, as you fay, tho it came by ye post, from Boston only. You say you shall miss ye Co of this good Lady — I am sorry you shod be deprived of any confolation, at that distance from us. But there is one friend, (if we will make him fuch, & will choose him for our friend) who will never leave — never for fake us who will be a constant friend, & a powerful helper in the greatest Exigences — & especially in the last Scene, which must Seperate us from all mortal friends. — O my Hannah, I muft, I do, I will hope, that while you are far removed from your tender Earthly Parents, you will feek & fecure this imortal, Etern' friend. The dearest, sweetest Connections & Comforts, without this, are totally uncertain, & will be unavailing, in the greatest Emergencies — particularly in a dying hour.

How often, my dear Children, do you think we ver thought of you in this View, for these 12 mos past, while we have seen such astonishing displays of you power & stown grace of Christ, towards so many of you Youth in this town—in turning them from Darkness to Light—from you Error of you ways to you Wisdom of you Just, & in open-

ing their mouths in yo praise of God & his redeeming Love. Never in your, or our day, has anything taken place comparable to it - And the Change in them, appears happily abiding, & not as ye morning Cloud yt foon passeth away — Their fruits evidence the seriousness of their Conversion. And I believe there never has been an Instance, (where there has been fo great a Revival of Religion) that there has been fo little vifible Opposition, & fo free from corrupt mixtures, Disorder or Irregularity. And thrô ye goodness of God, we still have Tokens of his gracious presence & power—thô not in so great & visible a degree, as in the Spring & Summer past. Private Meet^{gs} & Conferences for religious Exercifes are still kept up—& appear to be attended with ye prefence & blefsing of God. O that you & all our dear Children may become "New Creatures" -- "born again" -- & possessed of that Religion which your Bible, which Jesus Cx afsures v° is absolutely necessary in ord to enter into ve Kingdom of Heaven!

How is your Brother Isaac now? You or your husb wrote, not long since, that you concieved great hopes, & believed, that after all, he would become a steady, good man. You don't imagine what Comfort it gave us. — And what added to our Satisfaction & increased our hopes, was, a letter we received from him, not long ago, in which his mind appeared very thotful, & it was evident he was, at times, under ferious Impressions about ye great Concerns of a future world. I wrote him an Answer—twas sometime in Nov^r—hope he has rec^d it. Wifh to know where he is. I don't get any Idea by his dating Buffalo — Charleftⁿ &c. It cant be y^t Buffalo Creek where ve Savages make vr incursions & have killd our pple, can it? Where does it lie? & how far from you? Do write us more about Isaac, in y' next — You can both of you eafily concieve how rejoiced our hearts must be, & wt good News from yt far Co, it would be, to hear of a thorô, lasting Change in that dear Child. Heaven grant us the Satisfaction!-How could it be possible Hannah, that you shod not fay a word about your dear Babes, with refpect to Smallpox - You dont know how anxious we felt for them for ye last News about them was, you told us

in your last letter, (before this) they were innoculated yevery day before you wrote.—But we fafely conclude from y' Silence that, they got well, & had it favorably—

& will reice for it.

You express a longing desire to fee us—Nor is it greater, or more ardent & conftant than ours to fee you & yours. O when will ye welcome hour arrive? If it were not for this unfortunt Indian War, we shod hope it wou^d be fpeedily—But I sho^d almost be affraid to have you come now.—If it please God to put a final & happy End to it, we don't wholly defpair, (shod you remain there, who we often are ready to hope may not be ve cafe, if confistent) of once feeing that world. But this, as well as every thing elfe, in v^s mutable State of v^{gs}, is uncertain. But while this happiness is deny us, do let us try to make it up by more frequent epistolary Communications—I have had much on my hands, of late in that way. By some Turn in ye Difpensation of providence, I have lately a pretty extensive Correspondence open'd in England, in sev parts of it—both Clergy & other religious Characters in ye civil & Mercantile line of Life. Have recieved, about 3 weeks ago, large packetts, with fome Books &c from yt quarter—And was all last week writing Answers—to go by our last ship this Seafon bound for London. - The Names of the persons -Rev^d D^r Williams — Little — Hutchⁿsⁿ — Blackmore &c. The latter of these, (a Merch^t) has large Connect^{ns} & Dependants, & has thots of coming over here — writes for fome particular Information of Matters & things, with y View.

There is not anything special here that I think of, since I wrote you before; — except that it has been very sickly here, & in other places, in Sept & Octr — chiefly ye Dyssentery. But thro ye tender Mercy of God, while others have dyed, & Numbers calld to mourning, we & ours have been spared. Thô your Mother, (I think I mentd in my last) was visited with it, & bad, some days, but is now as well as usual, & ye rest of us. Grandmar is yet with us, & in Statu quo — sends her Love to you all. We had letters abt 3 Weeks ago from Jenny, & also from Chr & Harriott — all well there. Poor Col Lothrop is in a miser-

able Situation—has been quite deranged in his Senfes—his Brothers hire him boarded up at Kempton's place, a mile off—but he appears to be just gone—I was called to see him yesterday, thôt to be dying.—Poor soul—broken—ruined & fallen, by every kind of Excefs.—John Watfon's Wife is dead—dy^a ab^t a month ago, of ye Dyfsentery—& feveral others, whom you was not acq^a with.

Your Mama & Aunt Thⁿ, ye week before last, went to Bofton, by land, & returned ye fame week—had a pleast Journey & Visit. Judge Gill gave her, as ufual, a large Cheese abt 40th, made at Princeton.—But one thing your Mar was exceed^ely pleas^d with. She was at Cambridge & faw there Mrs Dunkin, who moved from Philada (where they live) last Summer — She told y' Mother, they efteem it a triffing Journey, from Phila to Marietta. And that she had an Acquaint of hers there who was going to Marietta, not long since — (Name she yr Mar thinks was Hunt) — Sukey charged him to call & fee you — On his Return, she enquired of him - & he told her he did - "& a finer Woman he never faw in his life, & was almost fallen in Love - And two fuch Children as she had, he never laid his Eyes on before."-Thus much for that. It was pleafing to a Parent—i e, supposing twas true, that he did call on you. - & I have no reason to think the Gentleman made ye Story to pleafe Mrs Dunkin. — Our Children all send Love. You made us laugh when in yours you say "Dear little Peter I hope is well." You have no Idea, I conclude, yt little Peter is bigger yn Sam was wⁿ v^o faw him — & that he ftudies & recites Virgil — Tully &c & is almost fitted for College. Sam', will go, I fuppe next Commencement — & Peter might be got ready by yt time, but he is too young yet. Old Anna is yet alive - but poorly, lives at her Mother's - but crawls over here now & then. — Well my dear Children — I v written a long, thô promifcuous Epistle. Do write wⁿ y^o recieve it, if v° ever do. We all join in ve tenderest Emotions of Love to you both & sweet Babes. Regds to yr dear & worthy Parents. Write Soon, my Son, & tell all abt ve War &c & your Situat - hopes - fears &c if it continues, I pray yo leave that & come back to ye Bosom of y' Native Co & friends, & rejce ye Hts of y'

aff^t Parents Chandler & Jane Robbins.

P. S. Unhappily, my dear Daught, ye Post went off last week, & forgot my Letter. Therefore I newdate it, viz. Decr 24th—Nothing special to add—except that GrandMar is a little more poorly, for a day or two than usual—but she oft has ill turns. One or two fudden Deaths. Old Mr Nelfon whom they call Uncle Johnny is dead—& Bill Barnes, a drinking man, went to bed well N: before last, & found Dead in ye Morning.—Last Sabb. being Fr. Fathes day at ye Defire of ye pple I preach a Fr. Frs Sermon. Han Nicolson is going to be marry to a Gentleman merch in Salem—pious Man & an excell Match.—Write abt Geo. Torrey. His friends v nev hd by letter fr him.

PLYMOUTH. Dec^m 23^d — 25

M^r Benj: ^a Ives Gilman. Marietta

p^r Post To y^o Postoffice in Pittsburg

Ohio

Via Philad^a.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Rev. Tristram Gilman, North Yarmouth, Me.

Plymouth December 29th 1794

My Dear Uncle -

I had the pleasure of receiving a line from you some time ago—and as its not disagreeable to you should have wrote you before, had I been favour^d with an Oppertunity.—You mention a desire to be informed the particulars of my Journey.—I took leave of the best of Husbands, and loveliest of Children 2^d of June Just before day.—M^r Gilman hired 8 Men to come up the River by land. As a safeguard to us in the barge—seven in number.—As we came against the Current, we could not go further than 40 miles that day. at night, I requested the owner of the barge to let me anchor off in the middle of the River, lest there should be enemy on shore.—he

¹ Forefathers' Day.

consented - and remained with me and my Brother Isaac, who was with me - on board. - I pafs'd a very disagreeable night, but was a good Centinel for my fellow passengers on shore. - next night we got to a good station 80 miles from Marietta, and out of danger from Indians. — 4th of June, we arrived at Charlestown Mouth of Buffaloe. - Here my Brother Isaac resides. 106 miles from Marietta. — Mr Bailey and myself then took Horses. and commenced our Journey. - nothing material happen'd till we got within three days ride of my Uncles at Norfolk, State of Conecticut. - where Mr Bailey went to the stable for my horse, and found he had a swelling on his back near as big as my head.—For the first time, I felt discourage'd & disheartned.—After I saw it—I went into the house, began to think of & wish for the presence and advice of my dear Husband. - I was going to give vent to the feelings of my heart—but check'd myself, and determined to overcome such feelings, and reassume my former resolution. — I went to Mr Bailey, told him that as the horse was a very fine one, perhaps he could exchange him, with a trifle for one not so good. he went out, & soon returned with another horse, and Just before night we proceeded on our Journey. — I rode him as far as my Uncle's—but as I was not use'd to a trotting horse, it overcame me so much that I determined to take the Heartford Stage, and proceed to Boston. — After resting some days at my Uncle's, I took a seat in the Stage, & arrived at Boston 1st day of July. — doubtlefs my dear Sir, you read an account of the terrible Tornado in Conecticut, — I forgot to mention, that I saw the Cloud rising in its awful Grandeur, and had I been 2 hours sooner, should have been caught in the dreadful scene.—But I was remarkably preserved—and much favourd with regard to the weather, was not detain'd one quarter of an hour by rain. — It seem'd as if Providence smiled upon the undertaking—Every difficulty I met with, appear'd but for a moment.—Hope I shall ever remember with gratitude to Heaven, my preservations thro' that long Journey, and Gods mercy to me since my arrival here. Thus my dear Uncle as you wish'd-I

¹ Rev. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins.

have wrote you a particular account of my Journey.¹—I thank you my dear Sir for your good wishes for myself & dear absent family. I was pleas'd with the account of your Children—Joseph, I remember to have seen at Exeter. the others, I never saw.—It would afford great pleasure to receive a line from any of them, I feel interested in their concerns and wish them Happy.—Please to excuse my writing so lengthy—and all inaccuracies—and believe me with respect your dutiful &

Affectionate Niece Hannah Gilman

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins' mother, Mrs. Peter Gilman, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Cary, in Newburyport, March 9, 1795, at the age of eighty-one.

Benj. Ives Gilman to his wife, Plymouth, Mass.

Marietta April 25th 1795.

By the last mail but one I wrote you my dear H that I could not commence my journey so soon as proposed—About the time that I proposed leaving this Col^o Meigs received an appointment in the Indian Department and is gone to attend the Treaty: of course the Prothonotary's Office became vacant—This Office at present is not very lucrative but is daily encreasing and is a respectable appointment—Several Candidates appeared and I had some doubts whether I could obtain the Office, altho' the Court and many other Gentleman were my friends—

Governor S^t Clair arrived here the 22^d inst. I waited on him and he immediately introduced the subject and after many expressions of friendship, told me that he would with great pleasure appoint me to the Office or any other in the County in his power to bestow.—To-morrow I expect to receive the Commission and take posession of the papers.—I have been thus particular for your satisfaction as you must have been anxious to know the cause that put off my Journey.—It is necessary for me to be

¹ Mrs. GILMAN's third child, Benjamin Ives, was born at Plymouth, October 3, 1794, after this difficult journey.

here at June Court, immediately after which I shall commence travelling. — I am aware of the difficulties that will attend so long a Journey in the heat of Summer, particularly wh a young child: but on the other hand, future prospects must not be wholly sacrificed to present convenience—I must either travel in Summer or wait untill September Court is over, which would be extremely disagreeable as I cannot think of living so long without you. — I doubt not but this absence from your family is very distrefsing: but did you know the keen sorrows I feel at this long, this painful seperation, your own sufferings would vanish and sympathy for your husband occupy your whole attention.—I am sometimes so anxious to be with you and our dear little Ives, that I determine to set off immediately and should, did not prudence come to my aid and say that its impossible - Alas, a Journey from here to Plymo is no trifle and a thousand things must concur to make it eligible. — The Expence, Time, Mode of Journeying &c &c &c &c: are all to be maturely considered. —I am sorry to inform you that my dear parents are frequently indisposed-particularly my Mother who has some alarming Symptoms - She however is not confined - We yesterday had a new Maid, which will relieve my mother from much care - Her name is Rebeca Jones (or Lake) you have perhaps seen her washing for Mrs Meigs - She had eighteen months to serve and we gave twenty dollars to Mrs Lake for her time and are to give her perhaps ten dollars worth of Clothes - You will doubtlefs concur with me in this, that it is highly improper for me to be absent from home long. on account of the situation of the family, (independent of any consideration of my business) I therefore wish you immediately on the receipt of this Letter, to write me a Line (which shall expect to receive by the 20th of June) and inform me, whether it will be possible for you to meet me either at Hartford, New York, Philad or any other place, for even at Connecticut, it would save me four weeks time. - Do not think by my so frequently and earnestly asking you to meet me half way, that I wish you to travel in an improper manner: far from it — I would rather go to the Province of Main for you, than to have you travel ten miles without a kind afsistant and protector — Ah! that Journey from Hartford to Boston, the bare recollection of it fills me with inexpressible horror 1-Good Heaven! had I known, at the time, of your situation, I should have been distracted—There was something even in the appearance of the thing (independent of the danger) that wounds & Mortifys my feelings beyond expression. — I was much grieved at the acct of our Sons illness mentioned in your last (Mar:6) — let us thank heaven for his recovery & for the unusual share of health that our dear Children enjoy at this place— Jose is now standing at my elbow and knowing that this Letter is for you desires (of his own accord) that I would tell you that he "is a good Boy and that he will be very glad if you will come home soon".—Jane is constantly talking of you and every Boat that appears in sight, she enquires of me if you are not on Board—I should prefer bringing you to Philad by Water, if you can consent, or in a Horse & Chaise — I fear travelling in the Stages will be dangerous for our infant. — Write me what a Strong horse and fecond hand Chaise can be purchased for.— However (as I have always said) the mode of Journeying shall be left to your choice. - Judge Putnam is gone on to N E he proposes being in Boston at Election - I have desired him to receive my 2d Dividend of the Funds of Col^o Talmadge and leave it (about 60 or 70 dollars) with Mr Gridley or John Davis Esqr to be paid by them to Your Pa'a or his order - This renders it unnecessary for me to go to Litchfield. — I wish you to send to Boston and buy me a Treatise on rearing Cattle &c by John Mills Esq^r (which I have seen advertised in the Centinel) — Prepare yourself for surprise! Lucy W—ge was married a few nights since to Judge Petit and yesterday set off for Gallipolis - Mrs W -ge and Clara B -s, set off the day before for Connect For reasons (to be hereafter mentioned) I wish you not to go thro Norwich, as I do not wish you to call on that Family. - Our neigh-

¹ It is odd that Mr. GHMAN was horrified at his wife's having traveled alone in a stage from Hartford to Boston, and yet he treated her going from Marietta to Hartford by boat and on horseback with a friend as quite an ordinary thing. It seems to be the latest custom that is the objectionable one.

bour M^{rs} Schaumaun is dead — D^r Spencer, Col^o Lord and others are settled five miles below here on the Virginia side of the River. — Every account from below mentions the prospect of peace: Maj^r Cafs¹ (who commands Fort Hamilton) writes me that he has no more doubts of a peace taking place than that the Muskingum empties into the Ohio — Gov^r S^t Clair says there is not the least danger of any difficulties arising & indeed this is the opinion of all intelligent persons. —I am very anxious to have you here in August so that you may taste of the earliest Peaches — the prospect is good and if the Trees bear as well as usual we shall have two hundred bushels this Year. —

I have made considerable additions to our fruit this Year—Four thousand Cions of apple Trees beside Rare Ripes, Pears &c, were sent on to this place by a M^r Putnam they were collected in Connec^t R Island & New York—I grafted fifty apple trees which are all living but five—there are Sixteen kinds; among which are Newton Pippins, R. I. Greenings, fix kinds of Permains &c &c—I have also Apricots & Nectarines growing.—We intend sending on this Winter for Cions of the most celebrated plums, pears and peaches in order to make our collection of fruit as complete as possible.—This climate is so favourable to Fruit Trees that there is great pleasure in paying unusual attention to them.—I shall trouble Your good Pa'a to collect me a Box of Cions, this fall, in the neighbourhood of Boston—

The Inhabitants are moving out daily, and the prospect of peace, so long wishd for, gladens the hearts of all.—I wish it was possible for me to pass even a few days at Plymouth, but this inexpressible pleasure, it is impossible for me to enjoy, for should I come on that far my hurry would be so great that I could not stay more than one day—I must therefore solace myself with the reflection that on your next visit I shall be there with You.—You

¹ Major Jonathan Cass was a native of Exeter, served through the Revolution, and attained the rank of major in Ohio later. He married in 1781, a Mary Gilman and had a son, Lewis, born 1782, who studied law at Marietta, was governor of Michigan in 1814, secretary of war in 1831, United States senator in 1844 and 1851, and secretary of state in 1857. He died in 1866. See his letter of February 9, 1832.

have probably seen Maj' Haskell before this, I write him by this Post.—If he brings on M's II, this year, cannot we contrive to come on in Company—It would be pecu-

liarly agreeable to me.—

I almost always neglect mention^g Duty, Respects, Compts &c to friends, You must always give them, as much as if I mentioned it in the most formal manner.— Cathe Warth (Thierry) has a fon—fhe is married again, to a Frenchman at Gallipolis. — She was married in the House we lived in, Thierrys House not being large enough to accommodate the Guests. - We had a smart frolic. Madame Petit was there—Judge Petit was married sans Cerimonie.—I dined yesterday at Colo Sproats: Governour, & a select Company.—Mrs Sproat is one of the most agreeable women in the world—She is extremely anxious to see you — There is a coolness between Colo S & Judge W—ge that affects the families. — I have crouded this Letter & wish the paper was ten times so large as writing to You is the only amusement I enjoy — Your affectionate

B:I:Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Marietta December 27th 1795.

Dear Sir

We have been informed that Congress would probably establish a Land Office this Selsion. As I feel interested in this measure from my local situation, I have taken the liberty to address You, Sir, for information on the subject—

Whenever Congress open their Lands for Sale, I hope it will be under such restrictions, as will prevent Speculators, with large Capitals from engrossing. If prudently managed the North-Western Territory will be a very productive source of Revenue for the United States.

I have also taken the liberty of enclosing a Letter for M^r G. Lamson & one for Col^o Sargent. Should the latter not be in Philadelphia, will thank you, Sir, to keep it until

his arrival.

Our townsman Cap^t O——n has left this settlement—where he now resides is to me unknown. In him we have a striking instance of the necessity of setting out in the world with fix'd Moral Principles. Whoever calculates that appearances is the only difference between an honest man & a knave or between Virtue & Vice; must in the end find himself egregiously mistaken. My Parents are both very well as are the members of my small family; and desire me to present their respectful Compliments.

I am Sir with Respect Your Obedient & humble Serv^t Benj^a I. Gilman.

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Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Robins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plym^o Jan^y 26 1796.

My dear, very d^r children—Redoubling the Addrefs, after your example, does but express the intimate feelings of my heart—my chief concern ought to be, lest they be held too dear to o^r Hearts, & thereby stand in competition with an Object infinitely superior to y^e dear-

est earthly friend.

We recieved, by last post, yours, dated Dec^r 22^d (fore-father's day) in which you inform us, you had recieved mine of Nov^r 24th — but, by your Silence conclude you had not, that of Dec^r 1st, in Answer to yours of Nov^r 1st (w^c we rec^d y^e 26th) — but presume, you probably might recieve it by y^e Mail after. And that will supercede the necessity of my answering one passage in your last, my dear Hannah, respecting your proposal of resending the Bills, if they sho^d arrive before Col. Tallmage left you. We doubt not the proposal arose from the purest & most affectionate motives, but in y^e present case, our own feelings will be gratisted in far greater degree, by your Acceptance than Refusal. I can never resect upon y^e Pains you took, the hazzards you run, & the difficulties you encounter'd, with such unbroken and astonishing Resolu-

tion, in order to vilit your Parents, without ye most tender Emotions & oft with tears,—That Token, therefore of our affection, in return for yours, is, comparatively

trifling, & don't mention it again, my dear.

Then your good friend M^r Fearing is marry^d at last. Well I think he is wife in so doing, & wish him, most sincerely, & his good Lady, all happinefs, in the tender connexion. It must, undoubtedly be an addition to your happinefs to have so agreable a person for an Neighbor & Afsociate.

Col. Tallmadge, it feems, is yet with you. It gives me pleafure to hear of his welfare, always—Am glad you have had ye satisfaction of seeing & enjoying his company fo long. Prefent him, renewedly, my affectionate Regards, if he is yet there - Tho I think it probable he will have fet out on his Return before this reaches you. by a word in your last. He flew you ye letter I wrote him, you say, & circular letter &c, & you ask w' my friends in England said about Dr Hopkins' System &c. They, in general, approve it well. All my Correspondents had not had oppo to read it, when they last wrote - but as far as they had, they spoke in terms of approbⁿ—except a Remark or Enquiry which one of them made, respecting a point of no great confequence in ye System-viz whither any just Idea of a Deity could ever have been obtained, without a Revelation from God. Mr Hopkins fuppofes it possible, & brings Rom. 1.20 as a proof. My Clerical friend in England, supposes differently—& that all true Notions of a God originate from a verbal, tho' not, at first, from a written Revelation &c &c. Mr & Mrs H. are exceeded pleas with ve Book in general. They have still, great Satisfactⁿ in 3 of their Children, from ve comfortable hopes of their having become new Creatures. by a faving Conversion to God. You would be much delighted to read her last Letters. But I cannot be very particular in a letter—Mar must do that—her Journal you fay gratifies you, on that very acct - You have recd one of 'em, I hope, that fent by Gen Wadsworth — And the is preparing more, for fome future Oppo. You will, (by ve way) let me know, as I defired you in my last, in what way we can send, & to whom, in Philada, any heavier

Things than Letters, if we shod have Occasion—& to Isaac too - as he freq'ly reminds us of his little blue box here &c. I intend writing again, next post day, to Gen Wadswth in Phil^a, to know whither y^e bundle we fent is vet with him, or gone on to You. Should really be forry if that shod, by any means, fail in its rout over ve Mountains. You will also, doubtless let us know abt it—& Remember, Han.; as I once before hinted, always to write me ye Dates of those yo recd fr. me, & of those you fend — & I'll do ye same — by which we can always know whither any and which, if any, of our letters miscarry. I observe you are pretty good & punctual in attending to a former Agreement to write once in abt a Month or 6 weeks. You faild once this fall, but then I prefumd it was because you knew Co¹ Tallmadge wrote me just at the time you w^d have wrote, & told us all abt you & yours, & Isaac - with all whom he said he din'd that day, & w' well.

Why! that sweet Jose—to thank Grandpar's Profile for his new Skirt. I wish Gr. Par could fee him at his house, he would give him a Skirt made out of something better than his old gown—& Jane & B. Ives too. Dear, dear Babes — It hurts me almost to weeping, to hear such things of them, & can't fee them. Heaven blefs the sweet Lambs—& grant we may, if it be his will, see them in due time, in this World—& prepare us & them with their dearest Parents, to meet in that State of immortal friendfhip where we fhall never part any more! It rejoices us greatly to hear Dear Benja is relieved of his complaint, & that you are in Peace, & deliver from ye fears of ye Enemy & your Country increasing in Population & Improv-

ments.

The Sickness, Canker-Rash, still continues here, numbers have dyd-hope it abates, however-Our familv, thro ye disting Mercy of God are well - while others are in Sickness & Sorrow. I believe I wrote you in my last, (didn't I?) of ye mellanch'y sudden Death of young Ich Shaws Wife. had ye Epidemic Disorder, when the lay in, & dy^a of it. poor Cap^t [illegible] dead too, coming from W. Ind^s—& fince him Cap^t Bill Sherman both buryd at Martha's Vineyd—Had a letter from Chandler last week he has rec^d a hurt, by lift^g, with fome people, at a Rock—Strain his Stomach, & very unwell since—hope to hear from him; recoverd fr. it. Jenny, not heard from, since I wrote you. Sam' at home, being Vacation. Peter at School—& Mona as ufeful & clever

& mufical as he ufd to be.

I thôt, Hannah, I had effectually got rid of the affair of delivering v^s pub. Dis^s at v^e Humane Society's Anniverfary, by ye letter, you know, I wrote last year - But alas! 'Tother day recd another polite Letter fr. ye Secry inclosing ano unanims Vote of the Trustees, to ye same purpose — & having no good excuse, as before, am oblig^d to accept. Our polit quarrels, my Son, have indeed been sharp in Plimo - but hope near at an End. We are, ye chf of ye Charact & Propy here, ye Side of federalism— Thô Gen¹ W. & 2 or 3 m° strive hard to have it oth wife. All send Love to yo & yr dear Parts. Yr affect Parents Ch^r & J. Robbins.

P. S. Always our love to Isaac & let him know, when yo hear from us.

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Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. IVES GILMAN, Marietta, Ohio.

Plimouth Dec^r 20th 1796.

My very dear Children, We are daily thinking about you, & the sweet little ones with you, I must name ym. Dear Jane Robbins—beloved Joseph, (among his brethren) sweet, resolute Ben Ives & tender babe Rebecca, four Lovelings — the constant objects of parental Sollicitude, & Grandparental fond affection. Dont let our Love, however, be inordinate—lest we love them to Death. Fading flowerets, remember they are. & liable to be cut down & withered, ere the Noon of life shall arrive. Such are all our terreftial Enjoyments. Happy, thrice happy they, who have an Interest in an immortal friend, who will never fail or forsake them.

This is post day—and the I have not received any line from you, since we wrote last, I seem as if I must not wait longer before we converte again, this way.

¹ Rebecca Ives Gilman was born September 1, 1796.

The last I rec^d, was wrote by you, Han, dated 10th Oct^r; & rec^d y^e 4th Nov^r, with the agreable particulars of the kindness of Gods gracious providence in your safe deliverance, & your resolution, (O may you ever keep it) of trusting, in future, more on the Lord, & lefs on an Arm of flesh. We had recd just before that, a Line from Benja announcing yt happy Event, dated Sept 4th These are ye last from you. Except that we have the prefumptive Evidence that you are all well, by a Letter, or 2, M^r Prince has recd from you, wth Cash &c. (You fee, I am always particular, in the Chronology of dates of letters. Tis best—I wish always ye fame from you.) Since I have written to you, as follows - Nov 8 pr post, in Anfw to yours of Sepr & Octr, I mentiond in this a Request of Mr Woodbridge, quondam Preceptor, abt Rights of Land. Tell if you recd it. Next, wrote Nov 11, or thereabouts sent by Gen¹ Wadsworth to Congress, he took it at Boston-This contained your Mar's Journal &c. Let us hear yo recd this. Next, Nov 26—to go by one Tupper, (Son to late Gen¹ T) who, I heard was with his Sister at Easton, near Bridgwater, & going on, sometime this winter, to Ohio - This, rather a Random letter, but it cost nothing, & his bror in Law askd me to write by him. These are all, of late dates. Wrote to Isaac, Nov^r 22^d, in anfw^r to one rec^d from him. We felt exceed^gly disapp^{td} in his not returning with Mr Prince, but since recieving his last, feel fatisfy. — Providence orders all Events, & therefore they must be for ye best. We hope & trust our dear Children are in the Situation & Circumftances God would have them to be, & defire to commit & reft them & all their Interests & Concerns in his hands. We wrote you, fometime ago, it had been fomethe fickly here, in ye summer & fall & of ye Death of Mrs Le Baron, (Sally) & Esq^r Cromwell &c. It has been fince that time, more healthy—Much as usual with us. But I was, just now calld to Bille Le Baron, to see poor young Sally, who lies very dangerously lick of ye fame fever, her Mar dyd with—has fome alarming Symptoms—I fear, but still there is grounds for hope she may recover—Poor Man, her father is quite borne down with it, & ve poor, thotlefs Sisters, seem much affrighted—being unufed, till lately,

to Trouble, & more unufed, I fear, to serious Reflections, or to imagine in reallity that they must ever die. Wish

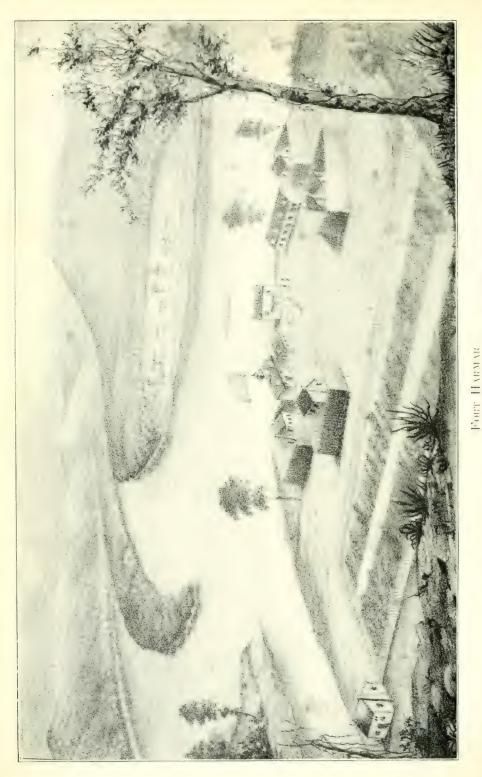
it may be an abiding and ufeful Lefson to v^m all.

I have had more indisposition, of late, from my old Compl', than common—Papl^{tn}—extreme Indigestion, Debility & faintness, at times. So y' it fatigues me exceedingly to preach, at times—almost discourages me. But, thro the mercy of God, I now, feel better than I have done. I keep ab', much as usual, but still have those trying Complaints. Wish to be prepared for all God's Will. The rest of our family, are as usual, thro divine goodness. So are your Bro & Sister, by last Acc^{ts}, in letters lately rec^d from them.

It is now here, all dreary Winter - Snow, & vast deal of Ice on ye Ground—all lock up. You, I prefume, have it very differently with you. But in ye midst of all, hope you enjoy health, & the blefsings of providence in sufficient Competency—which, if you have alfo, grateful hearts, is enough. Your Bro Sam' P. has leave of abfence from College to keep a School, 8 weeks, this Winter & begun Yesterday, at Easton, 24 miles from this. Expect him on New Years Day (as he intends) to stay a day & 1/2 & then goes back. He is a very home boy, you know, Hannah, & cant bear to be long abfent from his parents. Don't neglect writing. You have got in Arrears. Mr Prince is much better in health. Well, ve import Choice of Prefident, is made, but not vet announced here. It will be known ere you rece this, no doubt. Wifh it may prove favorable to our Constitⁿ—Peace, & v^e Prosperity of the Union—which makes me hope it will be Adams. But ve Lord reigns — & directs all ve Affairs of ve world in inft wisdom. Noth special of news, vt I think of. May no Seeds of Disunion be permitted to be fown, by foreign or domestic Incendiaries which shall ever seperate the Country on ye Western waters, from their Sist Atlantic States, till ve Millenium shall come, & then y'e will be no Danger of Disunion! All send Love. here & at Aunt Ts. Your ev affect Parents, Ch & J Robbins.

P. S. Seeing a genteel, delicate Dunning Line to all Delinquents, in Rufsell's Centinel, tother day, I intended,





Drawn by Judge Joseph Gilman, from The Pioneer History of the Obio Valley by S. P. Hildreth, 1848

in my next letter to ask you, Benjamin, what you have done, or wish to have done, on that Subject—I feel you more interested, as I spoke, myself, for you Paper for you, in Conseqoo of your Desire, as you recollect. You let me know, in you next.

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Joseph Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, Philadelphia.¹

Marietta. 12th February 1797.

Dear Sir.

Permit me to send you a sketch of Fort Harmar as it appeared before the works were demolished, it was taken from the Hill a little North of West, and includes the settlements on the Virginia Shore, and a small part of Marietta Point, the perspective is accurate as it respects the Garrison and Gardens the other parts were supplied by the eye and are nearly true, as to the shading I am sensible there is not anything can be said in its favor. It may afford you and some of our Exeter Friends some amusement, as it designates the spot where your and their old friend and his family have weathered out the Indian War, and continue to reside. Our House is built in the Gardens at the place marked with the letter F, from whence we have a prospect of three miles down the Ohio, about half a mile up the River, and about as far up the Muskingum. We have had much the severest Winter ever known here, all communication by water has been interupted by the ice till the beginning of this Month, but at present not a vestige of it remains, the River is as clear of it as at midsummer and the weather so mild as to leave but a faint trace in the mind of the late severe Season. By the last Mail I received a Packet from the Secretary of State inclosing a Commission as Judge of the Territory for which I am indebted to some friends here, and particularly to you if I may judge from your former exertions, and for which I return you my sincere thanks. The Duties of the Office are considerable and important, no exertions shall be wanting to fulfil them in the best manner I am capable. I see by the News Papers

¹ MS. loaned by Daniel Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

you decline be considered as a candidate for a Member in the next Congress, I have flattered myself from time to time of having been able to cross the Mountains and to have spent a Month or two in Phila while Congress were sitting but have been hitherto prevented. dian War has prevented our making such improvements on the lands as we wished to, and indeed the last Season is the only one since we have been here that we could venture far abroad. Crops in general were very good and the face of the Country begins to put on a smiling appearance. Our little farm produced about 800 bushels Indian Corn of a superior quality 150 bushels Ry and Wheat and Hay sufficient to winter about 50 head of horned Cattle &c &c. We are blessed with all the necessaries and are seldom without any of the comforts of life, and altho' we have neither Concerts, Theatres or Amphytheartres, still we are strangers to ennui; in short we are contented, judge then my friend, can we be unhappy. Much of my time is taken up in public business, my garden and my Grandchildren of which I have a pair of each sex afford sufficient amusement to employ my leasure moments.

A Memorial and Petition signed by the Directors and Agents of the Ohio Company was sent last Winter from hence and presented, I believe, to the Senate, but too late in the Session to be acted upon, praying among other matters an appointment of Agents or Trustees to take care of and rent out the lands reserved in our Patent for public uses, The Ministerial and School Lots belonging to the Town of Marietta are mostly cleared and very valuable and would be immediately productive if leased out, the Ministerial Lots includes nearly two thirds of the Ground originally laid out for the City and would produce a sufficient sum to maintain a minister hansomely even the present year.

I wish my dear Sir. if time and your other engagements will permit you would enquire into the business give it your helping hand thro' Congress the present Session, as it is a matter of much importance to the

people of this Town.

Be pleased on your return home to present my most affectionate Compliments to your Brothers and Sisters



British State 1 17th was of the short one or all correct tracents. The most on any shows the faller of the contract of the Western Unrighting and Lammer Willell (Willie of the Senten of the tender state with the William the lares the 'a sygnetal han one of the factor on underect ha sunt harters and in within a time in tool the sace of the United states to referente apparer (1911) make my barnet restrictions and will the one of the most express of the lender that the tend of lender, in to in reason were taractered and made it the halpmane of the " A MARKETHY WHITE THERE CORNER THEN IN IL MARK DEBLINE OF I with the growth of the fight the duties of the growthing to time to have work to belle the constraint or the oly . Buttally in in cortal rule, bromer or in part or car lens . To not the process procedure that conclumnes to the same or live of opportunity corner on the second (10 CVO) (1 115)1111(1 CVI) Insident of the sended states of through lead who shall so these Promis - Greenling. Will the transfer of the expect in which in the transfer in the transfer the William of america the Leavily perst Commission from Sec. Wartington Poet To streph liman by Person Let 15113 Silman Shy masilina of the You bed States read our in the and devileng isentai . Suy : dies missen by the

COMMISSION AS JUDGE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY OF JOSEPH CHANAN Owned by his great grandson, Benj. Ives Gilman, of Boston, Mass.

and in general to all Friends, I earnestly wish to visit them, but when or whether ever I shall be blest with an opportunity is at present uncertain. I expect to be called on soon to make the Tour of the Western and Northern Counties, which will take up a great part of summer if not the whole. My family join their best wishes for your health and happiness with D^r Sir Your friend and

P.S. The Sketch inclosed is so very humble Servant defaced I am almost ashamed Joseph Gilman to send it, it was the work of some leasure moments when unwell last Winter purely for my own amusement & to preserve the Old Fort from oblivion.

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.¹

A D 1797 June

retire to private lodgings, away from Confusion and Company, I could account for his illnefs. He exerted himself, spoke very loud, and it was a cool day, the house all open, and the air struck on his back and head all the time—which obstructed perspiration suddenly; and he had as sick a night as ever I knew him. I put his feet into warm water, and put poultices on, he was very reftlefs all night and burnt like fire - and in extreem pain in his head, and back. O! Hannah what a deftrefs'd night I had, I realy thought he was taken with a fever—away from home - among strangers - towards morning he sweat very profusely, next morning hardly able to lift his head from the pillow—but very desirous if possable to ride towards home; as he was sure it would not go off without a settled fever—I fear'd so myfelf, but tryed to keep up his spirits. he rode with my driving very slow, and carefull 2 or 3 miles, and then stop and lay down, and we rode in the course of the day 15 miles, till we got to Mallbro' He could go no further nor set in the Chaise - he lay down a little while - felt sick at his stomach puk'd several times, which was very beneficial —

¹ Beginning and end lost.

had a better night next day got to aunt Bethunes'. O! how Thankfull I felt to get in sight of that house, it was so much better than I had reason to fear when I set out. Their we had evry attention paid that was pofsable for friendship to dictate. we stay'd till Monday, rode into Boston—Par feels better but weak, and has a bad cough—

Wednesday 11th June. rode home—you don't wonder

I was so glad to get home, do you Hannah?

June 16 While we ware at dinner today, some body open'd the fronnt door and walk'd thro the entrey into the kitchen, who can that be said I? Peter answered "tis Sam" it comes in just like him" we ware not long in suspence, how was we supprized to see my dear Chandler—and to see him look well—come in (from Hallowell) in a vefsel that he freighted with Lumber, is to make us a visit of a week—that is long for him—your Par's Cough very bad yet. we can get nothing to remove it—he is better of other complaints—we fear, his disorders are fix'd on his Lungs—he lofses flesh—we feel anxious about him, We want better blefsings than health, or ease—a chearfull acquiefence in the will of him who doth all things well.

19 June, din'd at Coll Watsons, with our dear son, Mr

Brimmer & wife, Mrs Burr, agreable visit.

20th din'd at Dr Thachers with Chandler, he has not been at home to dine but one day, I tell him to refuse if he is ask'd again—I so seldom see my Children, I want them all the time to myfelf—23d My dear son gone in

the stage to Boston, on his return home today.

29. This day my last bird is flown, Par has carried Peter to Bridgwater to study with M^r Sanger till commencement. Par, Mar, and our dear faithful Philemon now constitute the Parlour, and Lydia Churchill and Anna the kitchen, she cannot be contented at home — and I have invited her to stay here the summer or as long as she pleases, as a compensation for her fidelity in our family in years past — not for the benefit of her conversasion. you can't think how I mifs Peter.

30th Mifs Scollay came here to day to spend a fortnight

on a visit, I was realy glad to see her.

July 4 Concert for prayer, a very large congregation;

Par preach'd from Numbers 10,29. "The Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel." after sermon, read some extracts from letters, he received from England, accounts of the Mifsionarys sent to the South Sea Islands, as I often wish my children to see those beautyfull letters, I shall coppy, what your Par read in public—on the whole my dear Children I will give you all the letter.

Birmingham March 7th—97

Rev^d and dear Sir.

Upon reviewing your letter of Oct 7—96 I feel regret that I should suffer so long an interval as twelve months to elapse without sending a line to so kind a correspondent, this I did intend to do last fall when I spent six weeks at Plymouth—but could find no ship during that period bound to Boston—I should be ashamed to trouble you with so many Queries concerning Dr Hopkins's system &c did I not feel perswaded that your kindness and readness to communicate would not even find a sort of gratification therein. For which you are entitled to my thanks. Some of your answers have removed my objections from the D and others have confirmed me in the opinion that good men from different habits and modes of reasoning, may think very differently, yet very sincerely, on the same subject. I doubt not a great part of the felicity of heaven will reslut from the clear unobstructed view we shall have of divine truth. Every difficulty will than be cleared up—and full evidence of the glorious propriety and consistency of the Moral Government of Jehovah will blaze on evry Mind. Hence, the perfect union of the assembly of glorified Saints. It will be one indivisible—harmonious—blefsed society without a discordant Word or Idea! My soul longs for that perfection! and I would say with the Psalmist "Then shall I be satisfied when I awake with thy likenefs! But while this happinefs is withheld, O! for grace, to supply in brotherly affection what is deficient in understanding.

I would not forget to tell you what little evangelical Intelligence I have to communicate. The Mifsionary Society have compleated their first Mifsion, To the South Sea Ilands. In a few months the subscription for the purpose amounted to Thirteen Thousand Pounds; a striking

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proof that the hearts of all men are in the hands of the Lord. The silver and the Gold, of the earth are his! nor can be better appropriated, than as a sacrifice at the gospel Shrine. Men were not more difficult to procure than money. Several came forward and offered themselves to embark in the arduous undertaking of carring the news of salvation by our precious Emanuel to a perishing heathen World! a ship call'd the Duff was purchased last year by the Society—and fitted out—and stored by the voluntary contributions of Benevolent Individuals. The Spirit which appear'd on this occasion was singular. a ship-wright employ'd in fitting the ship for her voyage. whose work could not be estimated at lefs than £200 made a formal charge to the Directors of the society of 5 shill for the whole business. a Gentleman gave a Cable worth £200—and hundreds of private famileys contributed lots of smaller articles—such as Linnin—hardware - Books - Pickels - and evry other necessary and convenience for so long a voyage. a pious Man, who had been a Captⁿ in the east India service Twenty years but had retired in affluence to spend his remaining days in ease at home — was drawn forth by the attractive influence of so noble an undertaking—but still more (we trust) by the Love of Christ, to offer himfelf to conduct the expedition. His piety—sensibility and sweetness of disposition endeared him to the Directors and Mission-His nephew an agreable Serious young man accompanies him as chief Mate. The ships crew were selected from professing Christians. The Mission consists of 29 men — (not all of them preachers but some intended to assist as mechanics in the intended Settlement. But all of them (as far as human understanding can Judge) partakers of ardent love to Christ, and unconquerable desires for the salvation of immortal Souls) — Five Women the godly wifes of some of them — and 3 infant Children: 37 Persons in the whole. These sailed from Spithead on Thursday Sept 22, 1796—and were bound to Otaheite—It is the intention for the whole mission to stay in that Island three months, till they have formed a good notion of their language, customs &c and obtained a peaceable footing among the Natives — After which as

many as can be spared—are to remove to adjacent Islands, of which the language is precisely the same. feel no small gratification in having among this truely honourable Company—two young Men—the fruits of my Ministry—and one of whom continued under my care some time previous to embarking in this work. You will doubtlefs unite your prayers with Thousands in this land for a blefsing on this important undertaking! This bread of life is cast upon the waters—we need persevering faith - Prayer and patience to wait and it shall be seen after many days! All the promises and Prophecies are in our favour. God has long since said to the North, give up, He will also say to the South keep not back!-Great obstacles are indeed in the way—and more than now are known may occur, but the arm of the Lord will be sufficient to conquer them. Nay should it entirely fail of success—We may then look up to heaven and say "We are pure of the blood" of these South Sea Islanders. Here the animated conclusion of a sermon preached at the Second Meeting of the Society is worth remember-

at the Second Meeting of the Society is worth remembering and preserving.—

"To conclude, O ye Righteous peopel, engaged in this work of a Milsion to the South Seas! for your firm-

est consolation reflect, that you cannot here play, (if I may so speak) a loosing game. For nothing can be lost should the gosple not be received. What can you loose? Not your money; for what is given to the poor is lent to the Lord; at whose second appearing you shall receive your own with usury. What can you loose? Not your prayers, for if you pronounce your peace, and the son of peace is not there, your prayers shall turn into your own bosom. What can you loose? Not your care and trouble, for in these your souls have been exercising and forming after the manner of the heavenly World: Where the Salvation of immortal Souls is the great, univerfal, and perpetual concern. What can you loose! only one thing more can occur to your minds; and that is perhaps the blood of those whom you send. But that will be no lofs. not to the church, for it will be propagated, established, instructed and adorned by it! Not to the Missionaries: for to them to die will be gain; gain immediate, immence

and everlasting! But if you win, what do you win? nothing lefs than Eternal Glory, for millions upon millions in the South Seas, till the coming of the Son of God!"

I beg pardon, says M^r Little, for so long a Quotation. several distinct Milsions are now preparing for the vast continent of Africa. A Gentleman in Scotland has devoted Twenty five thousand Pounds to carry a Milsion into Bengal. But the East India Company have refused permilsion to sittle there. How natural it is for the interests of Time, to Clash with those of Eternity! as you give us reason to expect you shall yet obtain the Evans Mag^{ns} you will have in the successive numbers thereof, detailed account of all these things.

I don't wonder that appearences with you are different from what they were under the late blefsed revival. The Period is not yet arrived when the people shall all be rightous! and altho' God may condescend to afford us many blefsed anteparts of that day; they are rather calculated to encourage our faith, than gratify our expectation. We are hereby reminded that God has not forgotten his promise, and taught to look forward to the

complete fullfillment of it.

It must be esteemed your honour and happyness to have been an instrument in the glorious work of God of late among you; and a partaker of its blefsings. Nothing of the kind has yet been added to the list of our mercies. Religon wares but a dull appearance in England. The gloom in temporal afairs—which is stretched out over the Land, seems to affect Profesers to a great degree. Infidelity makes rapid strides. The poison of Deism works to an extraordinary degree among all ranks, and remind us of our Lords words "When the Son of man cometh shall be find faith on earth? what a mercy it is for us in the midst of all the confusion - Toils and Blasphemies of the Children of of men—to be able to lean upon a covenant God in Christ-I begin to feel the unspeakable value of his Promises, and to live by faith upon them - you will smile and ask - Did you never do so before? yes my dear Sir—but new trials—makes this exercise as new—as if it was the first time. Look which way I please in the world I see no Consolation untill I turn to the everlasting Promise—and unchangable faithfullness of Jehovah!

May his gracious prefence be with you

Yours affectionately Robert Little."

I did not think the letter was so long when I begun it, but I did not know where to stop. We are informed by another corrispondant, that some of the first ministers in London, have agreed to preach a Sabbath evening lecture to the Jews, who flock in great numbers to hear. their design is to prove from their Scriptures, that is the Old Testament, that the prophecies have been fullfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. How eventfull is the Period, my dear Children, in which we live. What revolutions are in the earth—It seems as if "the time of the promise drew nigh" to favour Zion. When Gods ancient people the Jews are to have the vail taken away—and be made to look on him whom they have percied and mourn, and own him as the true Meſsiah, their Lord and their king.

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymo Octr '97, to Novr '98.1

Octr 13, 1797.

My dear Benjamin and Hannah,

I sometimes think so much of you and your dear little family that I loose sight of evry other object, and feel as if I must fly to see you. But my wings are soon clip't by the great distance of 700 miles, and the weight of a family, and other dear absent children who I want to see. After fluttering from one part of the continent to the other from Muskingum to Penobscutt, I rest in the thought, (tho I know not the designs of Providence in thus seperating those so dear to me) That I and my dear children are just where infinite wisdom has ordered our lot, and that it is my duty, and intrest to rejoyce at all times that nothing takes place under his government that will not eventually be for his glory. if we are not wanting

¹ This is probably an error for 1797.

to ourfelves we may meet at the Throne of grace evry

day, and commend each other to divine mercy.

I desire to acknowledge the goodness of God that I can so often hear from you—and let you know my thoughts, and tho they are very desultory— and triffling often times, they give you pleasure. I have sent a packet for you by Mil's Zilpha Wadsworth who is going in the stage in the morning, and expects to meet her Par, on his way to Congress.

I am prepareing for another journey, we have not determin'd where, if you Par finds riding beneficial we shall go on to Newbury. I fear your Par is not able to go so far from home. I never left home more anxious, as I feel unwell myfelf, and I can't forget the deftrefses of our last journey when your Par was so sick. But I ought also to recolect the mercyes of it—and hope the best. I must bid you good bye for the present.

Oct. 28th. Well my dear Hannah thro the great goodness of God we have got home safe. Your Par mended evry mile—and I came home the invalid.—I took cold, and brought on my hooping cough with violence. He was obliged to take all the care and drive all the way home.

We left home 18 instant, rode to Bridgwater, Lodged at Eq Snells by desire of Mrs Morey who was there. If she had been our Mother she could not have received more affectionately. Next day to aunt Bethunes to dine. We concluded not to go into Boston, as Mrs Gill is very dangerously sick of a fever at Princton found aunt Bethune nicly, I never saw her look better, the family all happy in her recovery. she said "she expected to be well eno to go to town, to attend the Theatre this winter" poor improvement of her regain'd health. a beautfull day, got into the chaife, rode round thro' Watertown, call'd on Mrs Hunt, she had in her armes, the finest child I ever saw, about 6 months old, it look'd more like waxwork, it was a beauty. I don't think there is so handsome a child, at Marietta. The first word after they had askd us how we did. O! Cousin, did you ever expect to see Mar so well. We did not stay long as our object was to keep

[Pages 2 to 17 are missing.]

¹ About ninety miles.

Monday we rode in M^r Gills carriage, to Cambridge, to see our dear Children. Peter was at the funeral ¹ Sam¹ had a bad cold and could not attend found them well, rode to Boston to dine call d upon M^{rs} English a few minutes, Nath, Nancy and M^{rs} Dunkin live together at Cambridge yet, they have divided the household furniture, and aunt Bethuns Cloths, but the real estate remains, as it was,

each one to have their part of the income.

Saturday 31, Robbins, call us early in the morning says, George is dying. He revived a little, but is just gone. I stay'd all day. He don't want to see any of his former acquaintance, only those that can pray with him, and for Elle Holmes came in to lift him into the chair. He said, "Mr Thomson you have but a little while to live to all appearance what is your advice to us." He exerted himfelf, O! said he, not to live as I have done, I despised the worship of God—I despised the word of God, I despised reproof, and talk'd, till he was so spent that he could not speak, and appears to be filling up fast. Your poor aunt is bowed down under this affliction. I keep there all the time, except at meals, and nights and than, I must be with your Par. Mrs Thomson says, when he mifses me out of the room, he says where is aunt Robbins. He wants your Par, and I, there all the time. Monday, George dyed, about 6 o'clock this afternoon, just before he breath'd his last, his mother said, my dear child, your just lanching into Eternity, can you trust in Christ, and commit your departing Spirit into his hands, He say'd yes yes. He had his senses perfectly, knew when his pulfe stoped, spoke of it, call his Mar, and told her, his eyes grew dark. soon was gone O! what an affecting scene. your aunt allmost beside herfelf. it was with difficulty we could get her out of the room. May this speaking voice of providence, be improved by us all to prepare to dye.

We have had letters from England, and Maz^{ns} account of the voaige of the Mission Ship. a letter from M^r Little their is something so easy natural and pious in his letters that I am much pleased with them, and feel a peculiar affection for him, his picture is in one of the mag^{ns}

¹ We judge that this was the funeral of Aunt Bethune, but owing to the missing pages, the date is lost.

He look's good. Mr Hutchinson wrote your Par, that it was a very striking likenefs, his youngest son about 4 years old, as soon as they shew it him, said tis Little—tis Little. Do you want to see his letter Hannah, you shall, when I can get time to coppy it.

April 5 fast day and as we have but one exersise I

thought I would coppy the letter.

My dear Sir, Birmingham July 31, 1797.

Having an oppertunity by a gentleman going to America, I caught it, to be dedicated to the service of friendship-friendship, I say, for what are the billows that roll between us? They are only the partitions of our Earthly House, and our heavenly father does not permit us to have very easy accels to each others apartments at present. But if we are locked up from the sight of one another on earth, are we therefore not children of the same Parent? Yes truly, and soon Seas and Distances will be known no more. We shall live together in one holy, happy, society; and look back to this little speck, our former residence with triumphant Joy, and thankfullness to him, who kept us while in it, from being of it. I am thinking now what a source of pleasure will arife from our conversations together upon the dealings of the Lord with us while we dwelt below; and our mutual infpections of each others labours, and progrefs thro this world will discover to us much more of the infinit wisdom, and goodness of God in appointing us our several stations.

So I find by my dear friend M^{rs} Hutchinson you have been brought allmost within view of that World. Such a confinement from the delightfull work of preaching the Gosple must have been in itfelf very painfull. But it pleases God that we sometimes, should serve him by patient endurance: as well as at other times by active obedience. I rejoyce that you are spared, and I hope you are entyrely recovered so as to be able to go thro evry accustomed duty. With respect to myfelf I have abundant reason for thankfullnefs to the God of all grace—for continued health and strength of body—O! that it had been more entirely employed in his service.—

It is a blefsing to be permitted to do anything for God. I want to do more for him; and live to him alone. But alafs I am a poor dull creature in Religion, and scarce crawl towards heaven. I can often say with Paul, "To will, is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not." Do you feel it so Sir! pray are you languid, cold, and unprofitable to yourself in privat? are your prayers often flat, insipid, and lifelefs? Excuse the freedom of these questions—for the I so often preach about these things to others: I frequently think—No one feels so much of it as myself—In public exercises indeed — my mind has been more generally at liberty, than ever I remember heretofore, and altho we have not many instances of awakenings or conversions, still many have been comforted and built up in the faith. I have seen some of the plants of grace growing like trees planted by rivers of water, bringing forth their fruite in season. But I pray God to send down his sacred influences more abundantly.

It has pleased God in his wife but mysterious providence to point out to me the propriety of changing the scene of my labours. after long and earnestly seeking his direction, and taking counsel with my Brethrem—I am about to remove, and take charge of a Church about 40 miles—Northward of this Place. O may it appear that this, as well as all other changes that happen in the Church, may further the cause of Christ and spread the sweet savour of his name. As to our correspondence, I hope it will not be interrupted by this event. I my next I can tell you further about my situation and how to

direct.

The thunder of war still convulses Europ. Evry Month the clouds hang darker over the Land. The Lord only knows what will become of us as a People. I fear the Nation is infatuated, and devoted to Ruin. May the

Lord prevent it, if it be his blefsed will!

The religious intelligence of our country reaches you, in an authentic form in the Evangelical Magzⁿ to which I refer you. I must now bid you adieu with afsurances of affection—such as ought to reign in the heart of a Christian.

Robert Little.

My dear Hannah, I hope you will like this letter I have

wrote it with a very bad pen, but you are used to your Mothers scralls. I must communicate to you a letter from on board the Mifsion ship, when they were at Rio de Janerio South America.

To the Mifsionary Society. Dear and honoured Brethren

We think it our duty to inform you, we arrived at this place on Saturday 12 of November, after a palsage of seven weeks and one day. We cannot sufficiently acknowledge the great Goodness of Almighty God in the signal blefsings we have been favoured with, since our departure from our dear native country, and dear connexions therein. We have not experienced one day of real bad weather since we launched upon the bosom of the extensive deep: winds and waves in the hands of our God have been propitious. The fiery heat of the sun, in passing beneath its directest rays, have been kindly checked by intervening clouds or cooling gails, so that we have crofsed thus far through the burning zone without feeling those inconveniences that we ware naturally led to expect. Our visitations of sickness have been partial and transient: few have been afflicted and those. through divine goodness soon recovered. The abundant supply of evry necessary, furnished by our liberal friends in England hath not suffered us to feel the smallest want. The worship of the most high God has been duly and constantly attended without any omifsion but when necessity or prudence made it warrantable, whatever spiritual tryals, we individually have suffered, moments of refreshments from God and our Saviour Jesus Christ have more than compensated. Harmony and concord continue among us as a body ingaged in one common cause. look forward to what remains of our voiage and future operations with that concern our peculiar situation demands. Our insufficiency we feel and where our strength lieth we know. We humbly hope that the hand of God will continue with us, by his spirit to direct us, by his power to guard us. We give ourfelves up to God, thro Jesus Christ our Lord, and desire to lie placid in his arms.

Dear Brethren, the whole Body of Missionaries, as the

heart of one man, present there Christian love to the body of directorys the Society and all true lovers of Christ and his Gosple. We pray an interest in your fervent prayers for us, and for our undertaking: that we may aquit ourselves as men faithfull in the cause in which we are ingaged, and be rendered mighty instruments in the hands of God for the conversion of the heathens of the South Seas. So shall iniquity stop its mouth and the mighty power of God displayed in the eyes of the World.

This letter was wrote by John Jefferson, Secretary of the Missionaries on board the Duff, in the Harbour of Rio de Janeiro, coast of Brazil South America. Hannah is not this a beautyfull letter? We have 8 or 10 letters wrote by persons on board, to their friends in England giving a particular account of their passage, which was perhaps the most remarkable one, ever made. another short extract from the Rev^d M^r Vaughn's letter "only 7 weeks you will observe have elapsed, between our weighing at St Helens, and our anchoring in this place: a distance of five thousand miles, in the runing of which we have experienced no trying Gale or scarcely an opposing breeze, insomuch that throughout the whole passage we have neither been obliged to stay or wear the ship, and the sea hath not been at any time more agitated, than that, I should have thought myfelf safe on it, in a long boat. glory to God our protector."

I am ready to think such a ships crew, were never on the water before. I must give you the Coppy of one of the hymns composed to be sing on board the ship—

> Indulgent God once more we meet, And bow as suppliants at thy feet Thy special presence now impart And enter evry waiting heart.

> > TT

Thou know'st our errand at thy throne We plead to have thy Gosple known; That Jesus kingdom may extend Unto the earth's remotest end.

TIT.

Into thy care thou heavenly Friend, Ourselves, our all we now commend; We'r launching forth, in thy great Name Thy matchlefs glories to proclame.

IV.

Go with us o're the boist'ous deep, And bid the rifing billows sleep; Protect us safe, send heavenly gales To speed the ship, to fill the sails.

V.

Our Captain blefs, and all on board, With thy best blefsing dearest Lord Daily communion may we find With the a gracious God and kind.

VI.

May friendship, sacred peace, and love To us abound, from thee above! O let no bitter fruit be found Our souls to grieve, thy cause to wound!

VII.

Give us a proof, O Dove divine! The cause, and all on board is thine. And may we trace the pathlefs flood In sweet reliance on our God.

VIII.

And when the distant shores we reach May power attend the word we preach In southern Islands Churches raise To shout our dear Immanuel's praise!

April 6 attended the Funeral this afternoon, your Par walked with aunt. Philemon with me—Robbins and Susey—than the Le Baron familys—and Goodwins as relations. a large number of people shewed respect to the family by attending.

"His hatred and his love is lost, His envy bury'd in the dust. I hope this speaking, this loud voice, may be improved by us all. so to live, as we shall wish we had, when we come to dye. Robbins was here the morning after George dyed—He said to me aunt, don't you think George dyed a good man at last. I answer'd, I believe the word of God is true, that says, the wicked shall not live out half their days. I feel consious of speaking, where any have lived so profane, and impious—least it should incourage others to go on in bad courses, hoping all will be well at last.

13. Betsey Avrey and Ele^r Holmes married last evening. I intended to tell you the text Par preached from the Sabbath after Georges death, "Who hath warned you

to flee from the wrath to come."

We ware wak'd last night by a knocking at the front door, I thought it was somebody that wanted Par, and I knew he could not go out—and thought I would not get up. But I found they would not go away—I went to the window, said who is their; I who is I? was answered, your son, will you open the door Mar, dear child yes, and soon let in Sam¹ & Peter, felt sorry that I had made them stand so long in the Cold. don't intend to do so again, to any body. It was wrong.

[The end of this letter is missing.]

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Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Sabbath Evg. Plymo. Jany 7th, 179—1

My dear Children—

I tho't it might be fome recreation of mind, & afford a little satisfaction, in my prefent very weak & low State, to write a line to you. Tho' I can bear no fatigue at all, of mind or body. I had pleas myself with the hope, that my disorders were removing, a few weeks ago—but, very imprudently, I exerted myself too much, by far, in my weak State, about wt app a necessary business, &

¹ As January 7th was Sunday in 1798, we conclude that to be the date of this letter.

caught, thereby, a severe Cold, which bro't on my Cough, to a greater degree, I think, than I ever had it before—a constant irritation at the upper part of ye Windpipe, caufes an almost perpetual violent, spasmodic Cough— & it has now, fo weakened me, I am scarcely able to go about. In other respects, I am free from many former Compl^{ts}—no pains, except when I cough hard—in my Side & fometimes Shoulder—for ye moment—& when done coughing ye pain is gone — The Doctrs still insist, I have no kind of fever - nor any hectical compl^{ts} - But this Cough if continued, I think must wear me out, especially as I have had it fo long. How the Lord will be pleafed to deal with me, I can't tell—My great, my chief & indeed, my only defire is to be prepared for & more entirely refign^d to his will, in Life, health, sickness or Death—& next to myself, that my dear, dear Children may not put off ye folm Concern of their Souls & preparation for Death, for any worldly Concern—but for their Salvation Sake seek ve Lord early, & make it fure, without Deception, that they are born again, & have a happy interest in the dear Redeemer — Then — All — All is well for Eternity.

We long to hear from you, & cannot account for this long Silence—Not a line Dear Dau^r from you fince that dated last of Augst—received y^e latter end of Sep^r—& but one from Benj^a—that with Prince's money, dated Oct. 30. I & your Mother have written you much oftener, viz in Oct, Nov^r & Dec^r We look^a ftrong for one last

Nights mail—but in vain.

While we do live, pray let us hear from one another as oft as we can—as tis all y wav we can converse.

I am in ye Ufe of all Means that are tho't best for my Disorder — But fuccefs wholly depends on ye sovn Will of

a righteous & holy God, who can do me no wrong.

Your Brothers Sam & Peter, now at home, tis Vacation, Sam¹ keeps a School the winter at Carver. We trust Chandl¹ & Jenny & theirs are well — have not heard from y™ lately.

I cant write a long letter—it fatigues me, must close

by afsuring you, that in all Circumstances, we are

Y^r affect^t Parents

Chand & J. Robbins.

N. B. Our love to y^r dear Parents. We have had no Meet^g today, by reason of y^e snow storm & my weaknefs.

Your Par, really had a very ill turn But I hope by the time this reaches you he will be better—I think tis not unlikly, have you received the packett sent by Gen¹ Wadsworth—I had a letter from my dear Brother last evening—I want to hear about the dear Children—Pen knife¹ and all.

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Dr. Chandler Robbins to Rev. Tristram Gilman, North Yarmouth, Me.

Plymo June 13th 98

Revd & Dr Bro

My good Neighbor M^r Washburn, gives me an Opport^y just to fend you & your dear family our love, & affectionate Remembrance, & to inform you I am in better health than I was last winter & fall, the rest of us, well as ufual,

thro' ye unmerited goodness of our God.

I had letters lately from Ohio. They are well, but my Daughter regrets much, the Abfence of her Mother Gilman, who is gone from them, to accompany her husband your Brother, on a long Tour, of 7 hundred Miles, as he is on the Circuit, performing the bufinefs of a Judge 2—goes to Upper Canada Line—then to near ye Mifsifippie—to be gone fhe fays 6 months—Your Brother being fo flender in Conftitn, Mrs Gilman couldn't Venture him alone, & concluded to go with him.

Have only time to fay M^{rs} R joins in Love to all yours. Remember us to D^r Mitchell & all our Plym^o fr^{ds}. Tell M^r Th. Robbins his Br^o James was marry. 2 days ago.

Y^r Ch^r Robbins

¹ A pet name for Benj. Ives Gilman, Jr.

² Joseph Gilman's commission as judge of the North-West Territory was signed by George Washington and Timothy Pickering, November 7, 1796. The court sat at Point Vincent, Detroit, Cincinnati, and Marietta and the judges and lawyers rode through the woods on horseback.

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Dr. Chandler Robbins to Rev. Tristram Gilman, North Yarmouth, Me.

Plym^o June 23^d 1798.

Rev^d & dear Sir

I wrote you a line, not long since, & sent by my Neighbor & friend, Cap' John Washburn — which inform'd you of our Welfare, & some things relative to our kindred & friends at the Ohio. Since that, I have recieved another. from Benja, dated the last of May giving us the pleasing intelligence, of Hannah's being fafely deliver'd of another Son, 3 days before he wrote it, & she was then very well. Child's Name, Robert Hale. Their Mother Gilman had providentially & happily arrived home, a day or two before—left her Husband well, fome 100 miles below — who was to finish his Circuit-Court-business, & return in about 6 or 8 weeks, I think he said. Thus, my dear Sir, God is extending his Mercy to us & our Children. And as they increase, we must decrease—that is, as they are rifing on the Stage, after us, so we are pafsing off & giving place for others to follow after, & supply our places on the Stage of Life. God grant that ours may do more for God. & ferve him & their Generation better than we have done — & may we, while we remain, double our Diligence, & redeem the time — filling up, with fome Ufefulness the few remaining days that may be allotted us here—& hereafter see the Salvation of God & rejoice in the Good of his chosen forever.

The foregoing Tho'ts, remind me of the Situation of another of my Children—a Son, who has, the last week return'd from College, to go no more; but to take his degree at Commencement—His mind appears imprefs^d with the Thot of now entering into y^e wide world—& in what—where & how to employ himfelf—He has always been remarkably steady, fober & studious—& maintain^d a good Char^r while in College—& I am fenfible has been the Subject of many ferious Imprefsions—but does not view himself as a Converted perfon—wifhes to be a Preacher, if he was qualified &c. At prefent, thinks it

¹ Robert Hale Gilman was born May 25, 1798.

best, to take a School for a while, where he may, at leifure hours, purfue Studies in Divinity—Have you a School in your place, that he could have, for a Year or half a Year, or more? I shod like to have him under your Preaching & Fatherly Patronage, and Direction in Reading &c And fhod he get a School there, or in your Vicinity—it seems to us, we shod certainly be induced, (having another, at Hallowel too) to make another Visit to you & them. I wish Sir, you woud enquire a little, on this Subject—& write me a Line upon it soon, that I may recieve it at, or before Commencemt we is 18th July. Send prost if no speedier oppy. My wife joins in afft Love to all yours, wthere we have the speedier oppy. My wife joins in afft Love to Chandler Robbins.

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The following notes were written when Samuel Prince Robbins left home, after graduating from Harvard in 1798, and began to teach school in Connecticut. He then made his uncle, Rev. Ammi R. Robbins' home in Norfolk his headquarters. In Rev. Thomas Robbins' Diary, Vol. I, p. 67, a note is made of Samuel's arrival, "Oct. 17, 1798. . . Towards night my parents, brother A. and wife, with my cousin S. P. Robbins, arrived safely from Plymouth." This visit to Plymouth was the last meeting of the two brothers, as Dr. Chandler Robbins died in July of the following year.

Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Sarah Robbins, Norfolk, Conn.

Aunt Robbins's love to her dear neice, and would be much obliged to her to finish this shirt for her cousin Samuel Prince. her aunt will return the favour in the spring, when she hopes for the pleasure of seeing her at Plymouth.

With interest till paid as witness my hand

Jane Robbins.

attest Jane P. Goodwin

My Dear Cousin, I recommend to your Sisterly Affec-

tion my Darling Brother Samⁿ P.—if you will Pay every needful attention to him, you will confer a great obligation on your affectionate Cousin—Jane P. Goodwin.

P. S. Peter Gilman joins in his Sister's request.—

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The following letter was begun six weeks before Dr. Robbins' death and must have lain by for some time. Dr. Robbins' last letter seems to have been received by Mrs. Gilman before this one. They are all placed in the order when they were written, not when they were posted.

Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives

GILMAN, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth May 13, 1799.

My dear Children,

You say, that my writing once a month will not supply the place of a long epiftle — because you live at too great a distance & want to hear me talk—another reason, you love to hear particulars — well I will gratify you my dear, Hannah, and tho' I wrote you last evening I will give you the particulars of our journey. Drs in Boston, and here, thought nothing would be so conducive to your Pars health as riding, and change of air. I was of a different mind, I was confident he never could bare the fatigue's of so long a journey, you may judge my feelings, when I had reason to anticipate his being sick on the road; I, could not tell where—I express my fears only to your aunt, she said, sister, you are low in spirits, if you incourage him, he will go, and I have not a doubt will be better evry mile. I told I would not say one word to him but I could not help telling her my fears. I prepared for the journey apparently with as much chearfullness as ever. But my heart was heavy as lead.

We sot out Monday April 29—about noon, stop't at Jacksons rested about an hour—got to Mr Barkers in good season, Par thought he felt better sat up all the evening. Next day not so well, about noon rode 9 miles to Deans, He was very poorly lay down an hour or 2, than rode on to Taunton, where your Par wrote a litter

home, That he felt better than he expected, and thought he should be able by very slow movements to reach the end of his journey. (We left at home Samuel and Peter who expected to go to Boston by water — Sam¹ to take the stage to Connecticut—Peter to Cambridge, Mrs Thomas and Anna to take care of the house, and dear Philemon, we were advised to shut up the house — Dr Thacher and Deacon Spooner said they would be glad to have Philemon, and would pay every attention to him—it was very kind, but I thought he would injoy himfelf best at home with anna, and keep on in his own regular track. As aunt was going with us, I could not bare the thought of turning him out.) But to go on with our ride, while we stop'd to write home, aunt drove by carelefsly, thought we had gone on, This circumstance worred, and aggitated your Par, He expected they would take a wrong road, and it happen'd to be our horse and Chaise to add to the trouble, and we ware left with a dull horse, and a hard going Chaise, the forepart of the day it was very pleasant, about noon, the wind got south east, and look'd like rain soon. After riding 8 miles we saw the Chaise at a Tavern—aunt came out, and took a very good schooling — I was glad to have that over before we went into the house.

I took out my store baskett, and we refreshed ourfelves, we rode one mile, when the main spring of our Chaise broke — just that minute, aunt found out she had left her cloke at the house where she last stop't, O! dear, what shall we do, our Chaise must be mended—aunt must send back for her clock-I feel as if I was insenfible to every thing that takes place, if I can but keep your Par calm, but his disorders are neirvous to a very great degree, and it is not possable. We went into a house, got a man to repair our Chaife. But poor aunts carelessness could not be pass'd over. Par told her she had done him more hurt by her inattention than his ride would do good. Par said he must give up for the night, he could go no further. He lay down very poorly indeed, it look'd very dreary, only half a glafsed window in the room where the bed was, the people ware kind, said they ware willing to do all the could, but they ware very poor,

after he had taken some laudnum, and rested, I proposed his riding 4 miles, where was a good house, Willmoths, as I was afraid it would not be safe for him to sleep, their as there was evry prospect of rain, he said he felt better—the Chaise was mended and aunt got her cloke, we rode the 4 miles, got supper went to bed, But Par had a very ill night. the next day it rained till noon than was good weather. We went on to Providence, put up at Mrs Marttins she, good creature was all attention but Par grew worse had a very ill night I got him something to take and lift him to take a little rest—after Breakfast I went up to see if he was asleep. He said he had been thinking that he must give up the thoughts of going any further, thought best for him to stay and rest a day, or 2, and let Mrs Thomson & Robbins proceed. He said he was sorry as he supposed it would be a disapointment to me, I told him it was far otherwise I fear'd when he talk'd of the journey it would be too much for him in his present weak state, home was the best place for him. and me, and he could take short rides as he could bare. O my dear Hannah, your Par fails very fast—The Lord appear for his help. We took leave of your aunt, Thursday morning, and staid at Mrs Marttins till Sabbath day, your Par did not set up an hour at a time while we ware there—and sometimes, I fear'd he never would get home again, he is not able to drefs, or undrefs himfelf, was lifted into the Chaise by 2 men, when we came away, But we ware very anxious to get home, (we had wrote at Providence that we had determin'd to return,) Thro the good hand of God, we got to Mr Barkers Monday night, it was fryday before Par was able to set up long eno to ride one mile.

From the account I have given you of the journey, you rejoice with me that we are at our own home, a mercy I can never be thankfull eno for. Anna is gone home, and I have got Susy, I must have somebody that is steady, we have not a great deal to do, and let who will be here I must do all that your Par wants done for him, what a favour it is, that I enjoy so good health, tis the greatest temporal blefsing; a circumstance took place while we ware at Providence that I thought a little remarkable, sometime last winter I took up a Phila paper and read

an advertisement by a Dr Cadett member of a medical society in Salamanca in Spain who had great success in Confumptions — Neirvous Complaints. I read it to Par, said what if we should go to Phila in the spring and see this D^r get cured and than keep on to the Ohio, A Lady was visiting at Mrs Marttins, when we got their, who upon hearing of your Pars Complaints, said, she wish'd he would send for Dr Cadett, who had not only relieved many—but, had cured one, or 2, who she, was herfelf acquainted with, after the Dr had giving them over to dve. Mrs Marttin urged his being sent for Par said, he would send, and conveirse with him, he did, and found him a man of midical knowledge - and very much of a Gentleman. He said he had not a doubt he could help him—but he must not take opiates, it would not do with his medicans. on the whole he prepared him things to take. He began, but soon found, he sunk fast, as he had so long been in the habit of taken laudanum, sent for the D', who gave him leave to take a little, when he found he could not do without it. a little poison, said he, will not kill you, but take as small a dofe as possable. I must own, I had had sanguine expectations, that your Par would be benefited by his percriptions. Several circumstances. concured to raife my expectations, We had plan'd a journey to Connecticutt, but could go no further and were obliged to stop their, We are often led in a way we know not, it is the subject of our daily prayers that some means may be blefs'd, and who knows but this is the means, that are to prove effecatious. O! my dear Hannah, I am too anxious, I often think of the story, your aunt Starr 1 told me of, that a minister of her acquaintance who had 2 daughters who dved in childbed the last was married, and in circumstances, as she drew near her time he observed his wife very dull—as he pass thro the room where she was sitting, He said, do my dear let God go before, and do you follow after, it struck her mind into submission to the divine will. her daughter was put to bed well soon after. That one sentence is eno to silence evry thought that rifes up in rebelion.

Just about sunsett last evening Peter came home I was

¹ Sarah, sister of Dr. CHANDLER ROBBINS, married Rev. Peter Starr.

supprized to see him he had heard his father was at the point of death, and got leave to come home—poor Child, said he was afraid to see any body when he got to the wharf least they should tell him his par was not living, He says he can see Par is alter'd very much, but he is so much better than he fear'd that his mind is greatly relived.

O! my dear Children, I see a worm at the root of my earthly happinels, O! to be prepared for evry event, I long all my dear Children should know just the situation your Par is in, that they may not be supprized should they hear of his decease but I can't write to them as I wish, because your Par sees all my letters. another reason Dr Thacher, nor any body els thinks him so dangerous as I, if he is not releived soon, I think he will live but a little while. He can't bare to have me look dull, if I do, he notices it, says do my dear be chearfull—if you knew how much good it did me, you would never be otherwife.

May 12. I have written to Chandler, Jenny and you I could not be easy any longer, your Dear Par fails as fast as ever I saw anybody, when I had done Chandlers letter, he ask'd me to let him see it, I gave it to him, without hesetation, he read, was affected, but said you have done perfectly right, I am glad to have my dear Children know the truth. yet how suprizing it is, when he rides out, people will tell him, they are not discouraged about him, they don't doubt, they shall see him in the pulpit soon, I wish and pray it may be so. O! my dear Children, I wish I could even hope it might be so.—

June 16. Your dear Father very low, it appears to me sometime that he will droop away in his Chair or Couch. when D^r Thacher came in this morning I knew by his look's what he thought—he ask'd me into the other room, said D^r Robbins is sinking fast. I think it best to let you know his situation. I told him I was sinsible of it. O! my dear Children, I never felt such a day before. I thought I knew how Elisha felt when the Sons of the prophets told him his master would be taken from him. He knew it, but could not bare they should tell of it. He

chose to be by himfelf, and have his own reflections. I have not time to write, I can't leave your dear Par.—1

I see this paper lay in the drawer today thought I would send you a Coppy of a letter Peter had from Rev^d M^r Chaddock—he is Preceptor of an Accademy at Middlebro'. Peter told me, he should get leave of the government of Colledge, to keep a school 2 months in the winter, it would be a help to me. I advised him to write to M^r C—k as he often gets an afsistant, I thought I had rather have him under his Care than to be principal anywhere—Peter wrote him and received this answer.

Dear Peter,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the recept of your polite request of July 23—But my young friend permitt me to sympathyze with you upon the death of your late Rev^d Father and the confequent affliction and deftrefs brought upon your family. O! your dear Mother my heart bleeds for her, and her fatherles Children—the wound is deep but not incureable - He who has wounded can heal. The Lord gave and has taken away and let your heart blefs his holy name - you have no cause to drop a tear for your father he has left the greatest evedince that he is gone to the bosom of his God and Savour and this must be a great Consolation to you, that your lofs is his unspeakable gain, and could you hear the sound of his Celestial voice you would hear him say, Peter, my son, weep not for me but for yourfelf, remember, your Creator while young - walk in my steps wherein I followed Christ—and you shall by & by come to your father in these blifsfull regions where all is praise consider my son, how often I have prayed with and for you how often I have admonished you, of the importance of religion. O! my Son, let not all my counsels my prayers be lost upon you—could you hear him speak this no doubt it would affect you. But consider my dear young friend, that tho he is dead this is his language. I must commend you to God, and to his grace. he has

¹ There is a break of some time here. The next letter from Dr. Robbins was written just before the last date. Dr. Robbins died June 30, 1799, and this letter was not mailed for several weeks.

stilled himfelf the father of the fatherlefs and the widow's God.

You request me to receive you into my school for the term of 2 months next winter. I shall ever feel myfelf bound by ties of the most disintrested friendship to render you all the afsistance in my power But at present I am unable to determin what number I shall have next winter, therefore cannot give you a positive answer I think it probable I shall need your afsistance I expect to be at your house Sept 15 by the divine leave than I will confer with your mother on the subject.

I am your sincere Friend Calvin Chaddock.

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Dr. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plim^o June 9th, 1799.

My very dear Children, for fuch I feel you all to be, especially, when Events or Circumstances take place which remind us of ye Necessity of a speedy Seperation from all Earthly frds & Enjoyments—which seems at present to be ye Case. Our family, of Gods Goodness & Patience, are well as usual, excepts myself. But I can say but very

little, as to any real Amendments in that.

I continue in a State of strange inexpressible weakness. I have been tak^g every thing prescrib^d, as likely to be beneficial, but a holy God fees best to deny, as yet, his Blessing to y^e Means. I continue to be free from all Pains; none in my Side—Shoulder—Lungs—breast—Head or any w^e else. No fever, as the Doct^{es} say, nor Symt^{ms} of Consumptⁿ. And yet emaciated to y^e most afton^g degree—Noth^g but Skin & Bones, as we say. I cant continue long—so. The Lord God of Power & Grace, prepare me for his holy, sovereign right^s Will in every Event! O my dear, dear Children, dont banish Death & Eternal Realities from your Minds—I pray you be reconciled to God—& secure your best y^e Everl^g Interest before it is too late. I am too weak to write more.

I wanted & your Mar too, I sho^d write to you by this next Mail, going off tomorrow—So must commend you to the Blefsing of God, in time & Eternity—I leave fo much Room, y^t I believe Mar will make an Appendix, as I commonly do to hers—& sheⁿ make fuch other remarks & observations as will be entertain^s & ufefull for you—We often hear from our other Children, Let us hear from you often. Love to all.

Your most affec^t Father

Chr Robbins.

We had a letter from Chandler last evening. He tells us, he received one from you, you say you want to know the truth of your dear fathers indisposition. I have a great opinion of Dr Thacher's judgment. He calls your Pars Disorders, a general debility and so do other Drs. I must say, I think he will live but a little while, unlefs he can find relief. Dr Thacher says he hopes he will get to his old station soon. O! my Dear Children, I want to have my will swallow'd up in the will of God, to say from my heart "it is the Lord let him do what seemeth him good." I wish your Par had strength to write to our dear Isaac, hope he will—do send this letter to him my fears that your Par would never recover have been great 3 months past, but I was afraid to express them so fully to my Children, because he always read what I wrote — and is subject to great depression of spirits, and watches evry look—and word from me—last week I wrote to Chandler—and Jenny—just what I have to you now, he ask'd to see the letter. I handed it to him he say'd tis all right, don't deceive yourfelf—nor the Children, I wish you to send this to Isaac, I will write him soon but all my attention is taken up with your Par, he sleeps up Stairs in the Chamber you was confined in, I in the Kitchen Chamber, he gets down evry day, and lays on the Couch, rides evry day when the weather is good. Aunt got home last Fryday, is here for the present, I have begun to gratify you in the old way as I can get time, farewell dear Children the Lord prepare you for every event.

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plym° Sept: 1799.

My dear Child,

Last Saturdays mail I received a letter from you, August 8th, I wish to give you my dear Hannah, that consolation your afflicted circomstances calls for, you have indeed, lost a tender Parent, the temporal, and spiritual interests of all his dear Children lay near his heart, and he commended them all to God with his latest breath. This severe stroke, must awake evry power of the soul to contemplate the perfections of God. his ways are infcrutable—But perfect. such indeed was his age, that we were ready to believe had it been the will of heaven he might still, for years to come been greatly usefull. But Gods time is the best. such events as these, are among those mystries of providence, which are above human investigation. The name of the Lord is a strong tower where [torn] may run, and be safe. When I fix my eves upon [torn] I am enveloped with clouds, and darknefs But when I raife them above I see Righteousnefs and judgment the habitation of his throne, why than should flesh and heart fail under Gods correcting hand when we may make him our father and friend forever May this be my portion; and the portion of all my dear Children. If God is our Father, we need not fear to follow where he leads, tho it be in the way of sore berevements, they will be fatherly chastisement, callculated to promote our best intrest and his own glory. You say you are willing to be afflicted, because your dear Father is happy. Yes my dear Child, I have not a doubt, He and numbers of his Church, who went before, are now worshiping, in sinless perfection where "they shall go no more out" If we are indeed followers of those who thro faith and patience are inheriting the promises, it will not be long before we shall, thro boundlefs mercy in Christ Jesus be admited, to join all the nations of the redeemed, where the mystries of providence and and grace shall be unfolded, to our unspeakable joy forever and ever.

The last time your dear Father preach'd was April 7,

text Colofsians 3 chap 14 verse, and above all these things &c. He wrote in his almanack, preach'd all day thro extreem weakness of body, but great freedom. it was indeed a very affecting time I never expected he would preach again. As his Subject was upon love or Charity in the afternoon, he spoke of the Harmony that had subsisted between him and this people near 40 years. O! it was too affecting. Many felt as the Galatians did, when Paul bore them record, that if it had been possable, they would have plucked out their own eyes, and given them to him. But none can redeem a Brother or give to God a ransom. I have often thought of a beautyfull passage in D' Newtons works, speaking of the death of his neice, who he had adopted as a Child. He says, But what can the most efficacious mediciens, or the best physicians avail to prolong life, when the hour approaches, in which the prayer of the great intercessor must be accomplished. "Father I will that they whom thou hast given me be with me where I am to behold my glory.

You ask who ware the Bareres, Rev^d M^r Holand — Rev^d M^r Shaw (Mashfeild) Rev^d M^r Everett — Rev^d M^r Niles — Rev^d M^r Sangar — Rev^d M^r John Read. Rev^d M^r Le Baron walk'd with me, Philemon & Peter, aunt and Robbins. The Lothrop LeBaron, and Goodwin families as mourners. when I send the funeral Sermon, I will send you an arrangment that was drawn by a Commit of the Parish for the funeral procession. tis said there was the greatest number of People that ware ever collected in this town on any occasion before, and a perfect solmem silence. (M^r Barker was absent, gone to Connecticutt) 7 ministers besides Bareres, walk'd in the procession, evry mark of respect was shown by the people — never was a minister who lived more in the affections of his

people than your dear Father.

O! my dear Children, when I followed the dear remains into the meeting house it was the "high water mark of my sorrow." allmost insupportable. where in the course of allmost 38 years we had gone together, I never went before—or after him to meeting—after meeting was done the dear remains, pas'd the house never more to enter. went round Colt Hill,—up Coll Watsons Street as

far as Capt. Mathews to turn. I desire to offer a tribute of Praise to God who supported me thro such a scene of Sorrow. When I got home, I went into my Chamber, Philemon followed me, said Mar, I love you, don't go away, tears comes in my eyes—I will be a good boy and do evry thing you bid me. dear Child, was giving me all the consolation in his power. He appear'd to be very much struck when his father dyed, did not sing as usual but went on taken care of the horse and cow, very silent. A few days before your dear father died. He said I want you should get well Par to preach. Par said may be I shall die — what will you do — you won't have no father. He answer'd, well if you die, you will go to heaven, and when I die, I shall see you there.—Your Par was very anxious to see Chandler; he had wrote when the Court was over at Hallowell he would come, evry time the Door open'd he would say, is that my dear Chandler, the Court held a fortnight. He did not get here till Saturday of the same week he dyed. my first intervew with him was almost too much for me, I was very near fainting. He staid a week asisting me in painfull but necessary buisnefs. He said he would write Mr Gilman, I shall send him a Coppy of the Will when Mr Read goes on to Congrefs. [It was] made some years ago I never saw it till after his death. He told me he had made me steward, for his dear Children. I know, "it is required of stewards that they be found faithfull." He also told me I should have many debts to pay that I knew nothing about. that I should be put to difficulty to support Peter at Colledge but after that He hop'd I might live comfortable. It was a subject I could not talk with him upon—it was too affecting—The Bareres preach for the benefit of the family, and a number of the association, in consideration. that I have 2 sons whose Education is not compleated kindly offered to supply the pulpit to the first Sabbath in October, upon which the Parish had a meeting voted to continue the Sallery for my benefit to that time, after which they will provide a Candidate, after the Bareres, Mr LeBaron — Mr Cobb — Mr Gurney — Mr Barker — Mr Chaddock—Mr Wm Read—Mr Androfs and I expect Uncle Cary 1 Sabbath in Oct: - Surely goodness and

mercy follow me.—I can't do as I used to when writing to you take another Sheet. my love to your dear Parents—and my dear son Benj. I love to have him take your pen and say a word to me. I shall do as your dear father used to write once a month as long as I have my health—Love to the dear Children from your affectionate mother

Jane Robbins.

Ask me any questions you wish.

I have had a letter from Isaac, he talks of coming this fall, I dare not make dependance on any thing. Jenny expects to be confin'd soon I believe, I have not heard

from her since her fathers death.

Miss Molly Cobb dyed a few weeks ago of a Cancer. My dear son Sam¹ Prince went to Hallowell to see his brother. He came home very unexpectedly July 19. I had lain down—Susy wak'd me said in her soft way don't be surprized—you have another dear Child come home—He was so much overcome that I was obliged to suppress my own feelings to comfort him—He has been a great Comfort to me in my lonesome state. he expects soon to return to Connecticutt.

A list of the bearers and other ministers who preached for the benefit of the family, enclosed in a letter.

Wednesday July 3 M^r Sanger Philipians 1th Chap 21. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Sabbath July 7. Mr Everett. 1th Epistle of Peter 4 Chap 18. "And if the righteous scarcely be saved,

Where shall the ungodly and sinner apear."

Sabbath July 14 M^r Shaw A M. Job: 14 Chap 1 verse. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of

trouble." P M. Sermon printed.

Sabbath July 21 Mr Howland. John 14 Chap 19 ver, A M. "because I live, ye shall live also." P M. Hebrews 11 Chap 16 "But now they desire a better Countrey that is as heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a City."

Sabbath July 28 M^r Sangar A M Luke 24 Chap: 24 and to the 33 vers. P M. "Many are the afflictions" &c.

Sabbath August 4 Mr Read 2 Timothy 4 Chap 6. 7 & 8 verfes. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my Course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only but unto all them also that love his appearing and kingdom.

Sabbath August 11 Mr Niles A M Acts 20 Chap 36, 37 & 38 "And When he had thus spoken he kneeled down and prayed with them all, and they all wept sore, and fell on Pauls neck and kifsed him sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his

face no more.

After the Bareres the afsociation agree'd to supply the Pulpit for my benefit, till the Second Sabbath in October. Sabbath August 18, Mr Cobb 145 pfalm "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

Sabbath August 25 Mr LeBaron epistle of John 2 vers "Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his

Son Jesus Christ."

Sabbath Sept. 1th Mr Gurney James 5 Chap 11 vers.

"Behold we count them happy which endure."

Sabbath Sept 8 Mr Barker Luke 22 Chap 46, "and he said unto them why sleep ye? Arise and pray lest ye enter into temptation." A M.

P.M. "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want." Ex-

celent-like your dear Father Hannah.

September 15 Mr Chadock Colofsians 1 Chap 28 ver "Whom we preach, warning evry man, and teaching evry man, that we may present evry man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Sabbath Sept 22 Mr Andros disapointed me no Public worship, dull day indeed, aunt Cary and Tommy here

on a visit.

Sabbath 29 Mr Wm Read Isaiah 5 Chap 4 ver "What could have been done more to my Vineyard that I have not dont in it? Wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes."

Sabbath Oct: 1 M^r Wetherton.

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The following quaint inscription, apparently proposed for Dr. Robbins' tombstone, was with Mrs. Robbins' letters to her daughter:

This Stone
Erected by the first Parish in Plymouth
as a tribute of respect to the memory of
The Rev^a Chandler Robbins D.D.
Who was ordained Pastor of the first Church in
this Town Jan^{ry} 30 1760 and entered his everlasting rest Sabbath day June 30 1799
aged 61

No more shall ruptured lungs or vifced blood Threaten thy life, immortall as thy God Rest thou dear Clay till the last rifing morn Than spring to life and put thy glories on The labours of his mortall life End in a large reward

A month later Rev. Thomas Robbins and his sister, Sarah, visited in Plymouth. He writes: "Oct. 25, 1799. Dined at Aunt Thompson's. She having failed through misfortune has again begun in trade and has fair prospects. This town is in a very great tumult respecting a minister." "27. Heard Mr. Kendall preach. I think it will be a great misfortune to this town to have him for "28. Saturday evening my cousin their minister." Chandler Robbins came here from the eastward on a short visit. This town is in a ferment on account of a billet which was yesterday [i. e. Sunday] pinned on the cushion, and addressed to the minister. At evening it appeared to be from my cousin P. G. Robbins." Peter G. Robbins was about eighteen years old. Rev. James Kendall became the pastor of Dr. Robbins's old church and during his ministry of fifty-one years the church passed over to Unitarianism.

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman and Rev. Isaac Robbins, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth Dec 19 1799.

My very dear Children,

Your last letter makes me anxious to hear from you again, I don't know whether it is a month since I wrote last, as I keep no account. but I know you wish to hear from me, I take my pen to tell you I have been unwell since I wrote you last, a slow fever lofs of appitite &c tho D^r Thacher thinks I shall get better and that I don't ail eno to medician much. I am ready to think that my health is declining. I feel pritty much the same complaint that your dear Father did. O! that I, and my dear children may be prepared for the whole will of a holy God, who has a right to dispose of us, as shall be

most for his glory.

I suppose by this time Isaac is got home, I say home, as his atachment is so great there that he says, he could not be willing to stay here. He behaved very prudently while he was here. He was very much urged by our good people to preach, but he declined it. said he never intended to, only among his own connections, the Methodist — and then he should not think himfelf at liberty to refuse. he preach'd at the Methodist Church in Boston & at Lynn, and to good acceptance. It is remarkable that Jenny, and he, should join the Methodist, But the reason was the same, their was no other preaching at the eastward, and Jenny told me, that she had reason to believe that they were blefsed as a means to open her eves to see, she was a lost sinner, and the blefsed spirit of God, she had reason to think enlighten'd her mind in the saying knoledge of Christ as the way, the truth and the life. Your dear father said, no matter who the instrument is, send by whom thou wilt send. He said he wished all his dear Children, may experience the same truths that he had evry reason to hope she had, the last letter she wrote before her father dved affected him very much she says, she knew, she had been disobedent to her Parents; unkind to her Brothers & Sister and begs their forgiveness. what greater evidence of the spirit of a Christian than humility. I believe their are many bad men, and prehaps immoral, who attempt to teach. on the other hand I believe their are some pious people of that denomination. I can't alow myself to feel any degree of preju-

dice against them.

When I wrote you last, I told you that the Church had given a call to a M^r Kendle, he has accepted, and is to be ordain'd the first of Jan^{ry}. the disaffected to him, talk of building a new meeting house, they cannot be easy under such preaching. at present we are in a divided, mellancholly situation, those among us who ware most friendly to each other are now, opposed in that, where they ought to be most agreed. For my own part, I say but little to either party. But think we have reason to lement. "How is the gold become dim! the most fine gold changed. the son's of Zion compairable to fine silver how are they esteemed &c &c.

Sabbath Dec 22 I have been reading your Fathers Sermon preach'd 7 years ago this day, I soppose you have got it. O! how totaly different is the preaching we have now. He has finish'd his testemony, and is thro

grace, receiving his reward, I have not a doubt.

I had a letter from you last evening my dear Child, I feel for you, in your ill state of health. under your circumstances. incourage yourfelf in God. hope in his mercy,

for body and Soul.

I desire to commend you to God, who knows your evry want, and is able to save. when I set alone and think of my dear absent Children, it a consolation to me that they are all in his sight, he can do for them all they want. I am not able to go out, have a slow, intermitting fever, lost my flesh, Susy lives with me and is very attentive—Anna is here too, and Philemon dear Child, is all my family. I am pestered to get a pen that will make a stroke, you are a good reader, or I would try to coppy this my love to your Parents—dear Benjamin and all the children from your affectionate mother

Jane Robbins

Aunt¹ says tis because I am low in spirits that I am

 $^{^{\}rm 1}\,{\rm Mrs.}$ Thompson died January 6, 1800, a few weeks after this was written.

unwell—that is not the cause when I am well, I am not low spirited. I intended to say something of Peters Situation but Isaac can tell you all about him.

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth May 7th 1800

My very dear Children,

I with pleasure received a letter from you my dear Son Benjamin, giving me the pleasing intelegence that my dear Hannah was thro the great mercy of God put to bed well—after great and severe distrefs and imminant peril. dear Child, I think of you with great anxiety when I know you are in circumstances, you have suffered so much in time past. But the Lord who heareth the cryes of his creatures in distrefs, and who is often seen in the mount of danger, has appeared again for your deliverance. Blefs the Lord O! my Soul, and all that is within me blefs his holy name. you called upon him, in your trouble he answered, may you be enabled to glorify him, by devoting yourself, and Children, to God thro Jesus Christ—as is our reasonable service, can it be, that you have 6 children, may the God of your Father, be your God and their God forever, it is a great Charge, to have the care of the education of Children, to train them up in the way they should go. I pray you may have grace to behave in a right manner and that they may be blefsings in the world. as to myself I desire to be humbled before God that I have been so neglectfull in my duty to my Children—indeed in evry relation of life, as a Child—Wife—Parent—neighbour, and to implore forgiveness thro the merrits of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has made an atonement for Sin.

I thank you my dear Children, for your affectionate concern for my health and happiness, my complaints are very singular, the greatest distress is a heat at my stom-

¹ Elizabeth Hale Gilman was born April 3, 1800. From the end of the letter it is evident that Mrs. Robbins expected that the baby would be named after its mother.

ach, some times in my back, lofs of appetite, no relish for one thing more than another, my flesh all gone, a very confused feeling in my head, that sometimes I hardly know where I am, nor can attend to anything ever so triffling, at such times Company, is very burdensome to have D^r Thacher think my complaints are nervous, I don't know but he is right in his judgment, I have not had any other D^r I have as much confidence in him, and more than any I know of. I desire to put my whole trust in the Great Physician, who knows all my pains of body, and Soul and is able to save to the uttermost. I hope in the mercy of God, that I may be restored to health—and be made a blefsing to my dear Children, and have patience, to bare the chastisements of the holy and rightious disposer of all events.

You speak often of my leaving Plymouth, I am not able, at present to ride far, I do ride evry pleasant day, perhaps the air is beneficial, the exercise sets me all in a flutter. I hope I shall recover that. I believe it to be my duty to be resigned to the will of God and remain where I am for the present. I expect Chandler in a day, or 2, on a visit. hope I may have occasion to rejoyce in

the goodness of God.

I think it is likely Jenny is confined by this time, tho I have not heard, M^r Goodwin, is not very fond of writing himfelf, She wrote me, that she had been very much troubled, with a numbnefs in her right arm, that was very alarming, could not hold her neadle, or pin, Dear Child, I hope when she gets to bed, it will be better. She finds eno' to do in her family. tho she is as to her mind in perfect peace, she writes beautifull letters, grows in the divine life, and seems preparing for the life of glory.

Have you received a letter I sent on by Dear Isaac—I have had a letter from him since his return, he tells me, that he was out on a Mifsion, tho he says he goes thr hardships, he doth not repent his undertaking. he is willing to take up the Crofs, and hopes to "endure as seeing him who is invifible". I hope for a letter from your own dear hand soon, and the mercy God has begun, may be made perfect.

Mr. Gill, lays at the point of death with the dropsy.

He has been in very poor health 2 years past, after the court broke up this spring he went to Princeton, on his journey home he caught such a cold as laid him up. He keeps his bed and is given over by the Dr. Peter went to Boston to get money from him to pay the expence of his sickness, and to take up his connections at Cambridge, but he could do neither it has given me great uneasinels. I hope when my Dear Son Chandler comes, something will be done about it, I wrote to M' Gill repeatedly on the subject but he did nothing about it. it hurts me that my dear Children should be sufferers, if I had been able to have gone to Boston myself, it would have been done, Drs Nurses—board—watchers &c amount to 100 dollars—this expence would be nothing, as it was the hand of the Lord, compared with the [torn] is at home out of imploy, what he will do in the future I know not. I hope some way will open. O! I wish to east this care. and every other burden, on the Lord who has in infinite condefension, allowed and invited us to do it.

I need not tell you that my head was confused, this letter is an evidence of the truth. My love to your Father & Mother and all the dear Children, not forgetting little Hannah. May we thro rich mercy be prepared for, and at last meet in a world of perfect love (should

we never see each other in this) prays your—

affectionate mother Jane Robbins

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Mrs. Chandler Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth June 27 1800

My dear dear Hannah,

I last evening received a letter from your own hand. O! what renewed cause have we to live a life of devotedness to our great preserver. May he who has again appeared for you in your destress and granted you so great a mercy, perfect his goodness to your body and soul. tis true I have not been able to write so often as I should have done had I health but the last letter I had from M^r Gilman

¹ Referring to Dr. ROBBINS'S illness.

the day you was put to bed, I answered derectly. I hope my dear Child, you will soon recover your Sight; look to Jesus, for temporal and spiritual sight. as to myself I feel as the warm weather comes on, declining fast. I know that with God, all things are possable, he can bring up from the borders of the grave, in his hands our life, and souls are, he can deliver and if we put our trust in him, he can give us better blessings than life or all things that can be desired. what is life, tis but a vapour that appeareth but for a moment, and then vanisheth away. I want a heart resigned in all things to his will and to be prepared for every event of his holly Providence. O! that my dear Children may have submission to God and when father and mother forsake them, may the Lord take them into the armes of his covenant love and mercy.

I am sorry Isaac has not written to you, he intended it, when he went away told me he should write you a long letter and I sent a part of a Journal I had begun, which I thought you would be glad to see also a sermon preach by M^r Shaw on your dear father's death. if you had received it, you would have mentioned it. I am at a lofs to account for Isaac neglect. I can't think it is done with desire—I have only one short letter from him since he

went away.

You mention M^r Gill sickness, no doubt you have heard of his death by this time, as to his great estate, tis said all his property is so imbarased that he will hardly have eno to pay his debts. all I have, that I depended upon for support, is in a very precarious situation I feel sorry for my Children, but desire to leave that and everything else of a temporal nature. you say I must keep up my spirits, I know I am too much depressed, and tis my earnift prayer to be delivered from it. may that God, who heareth for his own name sake, deliver me from all my fears. and of his infinite mercy make me meet to become a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. Plymo July 18 1800.

I begun to write some time my dear Hannah, but have not been able to finish this letter. this morning your dear Brother Chandler, who has been here a fortnight past, with his wife brought me a letter from you, I long

for strength to write largly, which used to be the greatest pleasure to me. Chandler—Jane & Peter are at home and

[The letter breaks off here. Chandler Robbins added a few lines, and it seems to have been sent in an unfin-

ished state after the next two.]

This Letter my dear Hannah, was the last that our dear Mother ever wrote—I find a number of scraps which she wrote, chiefly relating the Exercises of her mind during the past Winter-She has been uniformly in a State of Despondency and Agony of mind but it is consoling that her Prospects brightened towards the close of Life—and that she died calmly [torn] left us last Mon [torn] and I am forry to fay—it has made no Impression on him but for a moment—He has no Solidity of Judgment—and God knows how he is to make his way in the world—All my Hopes are from this Voyage—I am hourly expecting to see you — but if you do not come before I leave this I shall be distressed for you — I mean if you are on the way - Brother Sam left this last Week for Stockbridge. he will be approbated this M° and will I hope be in a condition to support himself. I have a painful Scene to witness tomorrow—the public sale of our Furniture—Jenny has received some articles as I have also done and as the distance to you is so great [torn]ld not [torn]

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Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman and Rev. Isaac Robbins, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth 12 July 1800.

My very dear Brothers & Sister

It is with inexpressible pain that I inform you of the very low state of our dear Mother's health—I wrote you last, immediately on receiving a Line from D^r Thacher in which he spoke favorably of her, since which, and as the hot weather has advanced, She has failed very fast, and I came from home with Harriot that she might have the Consolation of seeing us in her solitary and afflicted Situation. I reached this, last Week, and Harriot this—

Mama was much overcome on feeing us, and I afsure you we were no lefs fo, on observing the furprize Change fince we last faw her. She is amazingly emaciated you could not know her—is fo weak that fhe can fcarce walk acrofs the Room - and is, I am very fensible, near the End of her Afflictions. — and May that Almighty Being in whose hands, and at whose disposal is every Event, prepare her, and us for the Scene which is not far distant before us—I have fent for Sister Jenney, as I cannot think of returning home, and leaving Mama in her present Situation, alone. Shall wait untill fhe fhall come O my Sister that it was possible for you to come too and assist to smooth the Bed of Death. I have asked Dr Thacher how long we may expect her to continue and he gives but feeble Encouragement on account of the Dog-Days but thinks if she can furvive thro' them there will yet be a chance, but I think it a duty, which I fhould expect from you in such an instance, to give you her true Situation, that your Minds may be prepared for whatever Event, it may be the Will of God to cause - Since the Death of our dear Father, She has met many Afflictions and Tryals, which, with that, have caused her Mind to fink under their Pressure. She does not suffer much pain - and fleeps tolerably well, but is gradually wasting away. Brother Sam is here, he will leave this for Lee in the County of Berkshire where he is pursuing his Studies, the next, or the Week after—Peter is here, & has no Prospects of any Business-I wish twas in my power to assist or take him with me but it is not. Philemon I must in duty take care of, but I am distrefs'd on Peter's account—If it is possible my Sister for you, or My Brothers to come, I know you will not fail, as tis pofsible you may be here yet to fee and embrace the best of Mothers once more—and in either Alternative, I wish your Assistance, and to know your wishes respecting the Disposition of Affairs here.—

Harriot joins me in best Love to yourselves and little ones—remember us affectionately to your good Parents and believe me to be Your affectionate Brother

Chandler.

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Chandler Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman and Rev. Isaac Robbins, Marietta, Ohio.

Plymouth 13 Sept 1800.

The Lord gave and he hath taken away—& may we my dear Brothers and Sister, blefs his holy name. Yesterday at half after Four in the Afternoon our dear Mother entered into her everlasting Rest. I had by my two last Letters from this place, prepared you to receive the melancholly Intelligence which I now communicate, but it will be with you as with us, tho' the Event was expected and in the Seasons of her great distrefs in the latter part of her Illnefs was prayed for by us yet the Reality is fearcely fupportable. May that Being who has declared himself a Father to the Fatherlefs and the Orphan's God, fupport you my dear Brothers and Sister, and all of us under the Severity of his Chastisements.

Our dear Mother continued much longer with us than we expected—She fuffered but little Pain during her Illnefs, but complained of a distrefsing Heat, down from her Neck throughout her Back, at times, but in the last three or four days of her Life She had Paroxisms of Distrefs through her whole frame which were violent indeed fo that She could lay but a few minutes in any posture, and We were continually removing her—but I do not know that She was ever distress'd for Breath. Mind was in a gloomy desponding frame untill the last fortnight of her Life, when her prospects of Futurity brightened and She rejoiced in her Hope. She died calm and ferene. I was kneeling at her Bedfide and holding her hand when the expired. She died without a Struggle or motion of a Muscle—a few Minutes before She expired I told her She was leaving us, and would very foon be forever free from her Pains and Distrefses—(this was the last that was faid to her). She replied "I hope so— God Almighty be praised," and fell asleep.

I do not feel disposed to mention the subject of the Property left by our dear Parents, but as the distance is so great between us and Communications are so necessarily lengthy in their Conveyance I will mention, that

as I have been so long here, and have given up my Businefs for the Summer, at a great sacrifice, I wish to fettle as much of the business of the Estate as possible, before I return home, that I may not be compelled to be here a long time in future. I propose to dispose of the Furniture except fuch Articles as any of the Children may wish for, before I leave this. Jenney will felect fuch things as She thinks you may choose and they Shall be reserved-[torn] has expressed a Wish, on Paper, that her Cloaths be equally divided between her two Daughters except a Paste Necklace and her gold Sleevebuttons which she has given to Harriot, also that the Plate may be divided equally between her fix Children, & in lieu of Philemons part wishes that he may have his Bedsted, Bed, Pillow, 2 P Strong Sheets Pillow Cases Blankets & Coverlid—O my Dear Brothers & Sister I long to fee you and unite our Tears with your's on this melancholly occasion — As Isaac informed that he fhould foon go on another Circuit & did not fay where to, I do not write him, do it yourselves instantly, and tell him the cause of my not writing - We are your truly affectionate and afflicted Chand, Jenney Harriot Sam P & Peter G.—

Our dear Mother has left an unfinished Letter for you. I fhall take care of it for you — & copy fome of her other

papers for you.

Write to me at Hallowell.

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Mrs. Francis LeB. Goodwin to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Frankfort March 15th 1801.1

My Dear & only Sifter

It is a fortnight this day since I receiv'd your dear Letter—I should have written you sooner after the receipt of yours if I had had Leasure. But my Girl who lived with me was call'd home, & I have had no help at all, for near a fortnight, & my dear Babe has been & still is, very unwell. we are much concern'd about him. it is nearly four weeks since we difcovered a swelling in his groin,

¹ Mrs. Goodwin died July 20, 1801.

thought he was going to have a sore—but the swell^g increases, & has no appearence of Maturating, it is nearly the size of a large Hen's Egg & Purple, we are fearful it will prove to be a Burst. it is quite painful at times but he is a little Patient Lamb. Hannah you ask if I can realize that our dear Parents are forever gone. I suppose I can better realize it than you can. Before I went to Plymouth I thought I could never Bury my dear Father & Aunt—felt as if,—when I went to Plymouth. I must see Dear Pa'a standing at the Closet Just before Bed-time with the Silver cup & Viol of Anodyne in one hand, the Candle in the other, with his Cap, & Gown on— & in Imagination - could hear him say, - my dear dont you think I had better take an anodyne to night? I slept none last night — waiting & longing for Mar to encourage As he did when I was last there — in his life time — But my dear sifter when I got there & saw my dear Mother on a dving Bed I had scarcely room in my mind to think of my dear Father & Aunt — It was wholly taken up with that one dear object of my affection. — You wish to know what sustenance our Dear Mar had. When I got there she had allmost intirely lost her apetite—she told me she did retain a little relish for Coffee — for two or three mornings She drank a cup of Coffee, & eat a small peice of Cracker, after that—she could take nothing but Barley-water from a cup full, to a few Teaspoons full - for better than a week before she died I used to feed her with a few Teaspoonsfull, once in two or three hours—she could not take more than half a Teaspoonfull in her mouth at once, & it was with great difficulty that she could swallow it, she died the twelvth of Sept about four o clock in the afternoon on Fryday. I went to feed her in the morn—& it allmost strangled her. she whisper'd & told me she could not take it said her swallow was gone — & I could not perswade her to take any more while she lived. — there was no one in the room when she died but Chandler & Wife, Sam Prince, Peter, Susy, & myself.—I ask'd her—a few hour's before she expired if we should send for Mr Ken-

¹ Burse - a boil.

dall—she said No—she was afraid she could not attend

to his Prayer, & it would be sinfull.

After we really Perceiv'd she was dying—we did not love to send for him, least it should worry her. — she was perfectly sensible (as I wrote you before) & rejoiced at the approach of Death—M^r Kendall came in soon after she died — & Pray'd with us. We should have burried her on the Sabbath - but Mr K-ll was under obligation to be absent. She was buried on Monday-The Mourners only met at our house— (those who were invited to walk as Mourners) walk'd in Procession to the Meeting-house, the Precious Corpse sat down in the Broad Alley—the Mourners in the Pews each side of the Pulpit. A very large Collection of People beside. first they sang the Funeral thought—then Mr Kendall made a very long & excellent Prayer, then Mr K read that Hymn of Mr Whitefields composing—"Ah Lovely Appearance of Death"—which was sung with great solemnity. If you have not the Hymn, I will write it out & send you, with some alterations, which my Brothers & I thought Proper to make, we had a number

of coppies written & sent to the Singers.

Then we proceeded from the Meeting-house down round M' Withrells corner along the main street as far as Coll Warrens, on one side of the Street, & came back on the other, & up the Hill where we deposited the last remains of our Valuable Parent—beside the Grave of our Dear Father. And their immortal Parts I trust, are rejoicing together, & Singing the Song of Redeeming Love. — God grant my Dear Sister that you & I, & all that are dear to us may be so happy as to join them — when call'd to quit this Clave Tabernacle. — The Sabbath Following, we all went to meeting, in the forenoon Mr Briggs Preach'd, (Debby Sampsons Husband) & in the afternoon M^r Kendall preach'd the funerall Sermon, which you have. -The next Fryday I left Plymo' in the Stage to Boston, & from there home by water. but two days Passage. According to your desire, I have been very Particular -Perhaps too much so for the eye of a Critic-but your good Husband will have the goodness to look over with an eye of Candor — & consider I am writing to my second

self, in one sense. You ask my oppinion of M^r Kendall— I think there cant be a more agreable man, he is of an excellent disposition, affectionate, Tender, Delicate & a man of exquisite Sensibility. he appear'd more like a tender, Child to our dear Mar, than like a common acquaintance. & like an affectionate Brother to all our family.—you could not but Love him. But he does not Please some of our Dear Pa'as good old Stanch friends— I believe he is rather too Liberall in his Sentiments. they seem to be divided, I suppose you knew they had built a new Meeting-house—& there are a number that do not go to hear him Preach. I really believe he is a good man—they dont consider that he has not Pa'as years, nor experience. It is a Pitty that there should be such Disunion [betw]een the Lords Children for I believe there are sin[cere Christlians on both sides.

I had a Letter from Samuel not long since, he was well & Preaching at Blandford Hampshire County—talks of Visiting us in the Spring—or summer. O my dear Sister—if I could only have one more interview with you, I feel as if I should not want any greater gratification in this Life. Shall I never have that happines! my heart

Longs for it.

Dear Philemon is well, & Perfectly Contented & happy says Sifter write to sifter Hannah & give her love to me. Poor Peter we cant expect to hear from yet, hope he'll be Protected & Preserved, & kept from Vice. remember me with respect to your good Parents, kind love to dear Husband, & Children, tell my dear little namesake she must write me a letter, or at least a Postscript to her Mars.—Francis often Laughs at Ch. Robbins about his Cousin Penknife as he used to call him. I must leave a little room—Perhaps my Husband when he comes home, will write a line or two—Do my dear Sifter write often—& ask any & every question you wish to—& I'll endeavor to answer them Punctually—

Your very affectionate Sifter

Jane P. Goodwin.

Husband not at home or would write you a line. this must go to the Office.

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Rev. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins to Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

My dear Friends,

Being troubled with ye Rheumatism seated in my right hand I can scarce move my fingers, hence must write very small & it will be hardly legible - but having so direct an Opp° I can't let it slip—Mrs Guiteau has given us pleasing information from you - your Welfare your prosperity and ufefulnefs - When I contemplate the variegated scenes yt take place in this changing world this is my confolation — yt ye Lord Jehovah reigns — Infinite Wisdom governs—And all is right, & will be right—O where is my D^r B^r—dear sister Jenny—dear Jenny 2nd! alas gone from ys world of sin & sorrow - & we hope thro Grace in happier, far happier Climes. We would not then wish them back to beat on ye boisterous Ocean of this tumultuous world. Let us believe, love, worship & serve ye same God & Savior which we trust they did & prepare to join ym in a better world. O how remarkably is my dear Bros Family scattered—may ye fervent Prayers of their pious parents be heard & answered for their dear childn that yo may all be followers of Christ & prepare to dwell with them in Glory.

I received a Letter lately from Chandler, to whom I wrote a few weeks before—He has bro't dear Philemon¹ since Jenny's Death, to Plymouth & placed him with ye good Mrs Diman to take care of—happy I believe for ye poor child—God in His kind Providence I trust will take care of that dear youth who is unable to care for himfelf—perhaps he may spend some of his Life with you or Sam P. should be in a capacity for it—Poor Peter G. is not yet returned—& is probably, if alive, now on the boisterous Deep or in distant Climes—may ye God of his

Fath be his shield.

Cousin Sam P.² is preaching at Becket about 30 miles distant from us. He is well efteemed & I trust will make

¹ Philemon lived to be fifty years old.

² This refers to Mrs. GILMAN's brother Samuel P. Robbins.

a good & ufeful minifter of Chrift, perhaps he will settle

where he now is or somewhere in these parts.

As to Plymo you had information, I conclude, that va have another minister settled in Bros Pulpit - but I fear not of y' same Spirit & principles. A Seperation has taken place - anoth House built & ya are preparing to settle another Minister. May ya succeed & be built up in ve Doctrines principles & Experimental Religion of their forefathers in yt ancient Chh. As to my Family thro Gods Goodness we are yet spared & in comfortable Health & peace—Ammi is settled near us on a good Farm, Natty full of Bufiness as deputy Sheriff but expects to marry soon & live in Town. Thomas is yet a Candidate & the urged to settle in the ministry—feels loth to be so confined on acc^t of health. Sally is with us & a great Comfort to her Mother. She went with her Cousin Sam P. in v^e summer paft to Bofton, Plym^o Rochefter &c very agreable tour. James is in his last year in College & perhaps will persue the studdy of Divinity. The other two sons at home. Dear Friends, I grow old, having already exceeded ye bounds of my Dr Bro. But while I live, I truft, I shall love & pray for the Dear Family v^t descended from him — Sifter Starr also grows old & rather infirm—but is a sweet Christian & follower of Jefus. She and myself, you will recollect, are all v^t remains of my Father's Family—May you, my Dr Friends, live many Days, be ufeful, be virtuous, be true followers of Jefus — & may you faithfully educate y dear Childⁿ & have comfort concerning them.

[torn] political aff^{rs}—y^e appⁿ dark—tumults & Divisions prevail—& we know not [torn] But y^e God of Zion reigns—& ble^{ssd} are all y^a y^t love him & [torn] in y^e ark of Safety—We all join in cordial affection. Accept [torn] of love from y^r affectionate uncle Ammi R Robbins

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Rev. Samuel P. Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Becket Jan. 3, 1802. (Sab. eve.)

My dear and only Sister,

One year has elapsed since I last wrote you. Did I

write to you as much as I thought of you, I was going to fay, our estates would not pay the postage. But that would be exaggerating. It feems as if I must fee you before another year is at an end. The pains of absence are great, both with respect to you and the rest of the family; - especially in my present fituation - cast, as it were, into the open world, without any parental guide, and void of parental instruction. But in the midst of this melancholy train of thought, I cannot fay that I am destitute of comfort, either from temporal or spiritual sources. It would be wicked to fay it. The presence of God can make the darkest time light. There is nothing that tends to chear & elevate the finking spirits, and raise one up above the frowns or flatteries of this empty world, more than this. No wonder then that the true Christian speaks of it so highly. Give him this and he will ask no more. "For here is fulnels of joy." All other comforts are unfatisfying; and ever will be. If then this be so infinitely valuable, is it not of importance that we know whether we are in posselsion of it? - If we are not, we are in a poor fituation indeed. Justly then, may we be compared in facred writ to "the troubled fea when it cannot rest." And if we die fo we are assured of "having no rest day nor night" forever. These are concerns therefore, worthy of attention.

We have been called, it feems once more to taste of the cup of forrow. I believe we have this to console us, that fhe was prepared for the important change. Indeed, fhe prayed that her departure might be hastened. O that we might be followers of fuch, who, through faith and patience, have gone to inherit the promises!—

A letter lately from Chandler informs that Uncle Prince has likewise quitted this clayey tabernacle. Thus, my dear fister, are our friends leaving us, while we are left to mourn their lofs; and to improve the folemn calls. Soon we fhall follow them, and leave this world behind us; with all its airy vanities. Hence the folly of laying up for ourselves treasures on the earth. If we have not

¹ This was probably Samuel Prince of Boston, a brother of Mrs. Chandler Robbins.

our treasure in heaven—i.e. if our hearts are not there, we are of all creatures the most miserable.

Feeling formewhat weary, having preached longer than usual today, must break off for tonight.—(Good night,

my dear fister!).

Jan. 4. Chandler has doubtlefs written to you about his disposal of Philemon. Dear boy, I feel for him. He shall never fuffer, if I can help it. May God be his protector, & the portion of each one of us! The ship, in which Peter went, has returned; and I feel anxious to hear from him. Chandler writes that you contemplate a visit this way in the fpring, with Ifaac; which I am rejoiced to hear. I really wish if confistent, that it might be so arranged, as that you could be here (or in these parts) by the time that I shall set out for Hallowell which will be, probably, by the latter end of April, or beginning of May. Do write me about it. It feems as if I could not wait another year before I fee fome of my collaterals. There is a peculiar kind of pleasure to be had in an interview with near relatives; of which, it is hardly presumable, that the God of nature ever designed, that we should be utterly deprived. You would doubtlefs like to hear respecting my fituation. I went to Plymouth, in the fummer,—returned into these parts, after a visit of three weeks:—have been here, now, ever since the middle of September; shall tarry probably longer. There feems to be fome attention to religion here. O that God would crown my labors with fuccess; and his will be the glory! I preached yesterday a new-year's discourse (from Luke 13.7) They feemed to be all attention; and folemn as eternity. I want to hear from Ifaac how he fucceeds &c. Shall write to him at Baltimore. agreeably to his request, in Chandler's letter. Our Connecticutt friends are well. I am but about 30 miles from them. Well, my dear fister, I must conclude. May God be with you & yours forever, is the sincere desire of your affectionate brother, Sam¹ P. Robbins.

N. B. Don't fail to write by the next post—let what will hinder. Your last letter was dated the anniversary of your marriage. If your next is dated then I shall be

content.

Direct to Stockbridge; & Stockbridge postoffice—which is 12 miles from this;—to the care of Rev. M^r Hyde.

Jan. [torn]802 I put this in the office have had no oppty fince the last Date.

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Mrs. Gilman's seventh child, Chandler Robbins, was born September 6, 1802.

After Mrs. Chandler Robbins' death, letters between the brothers and sister became infrequent, although they never lost touch with each other. Before we enter upon the series of Benj. Ives Gilman's business letters running through ten years, we meet new family connections, the Lippincotts and Swifts, who belong to a part of our country which has not yet been represented by these letters.

The following letter is from Patty Swift, a school-teacher at Stamford, Conn., to her brother, Isaac, who lived at the family home in Cornwall, about fifty miles distant. They were the children of Dr. Isaac Swift and his wife, Patience Case, who both came from Kent, another town in Litchfield County, Conn. Dr. Swift was a surgeon in the Revolution from 1775-1778, and resigned after the winter at Valley Forge. His children were Adoniram, who married Lodemia Peck; Abiah, who married Jesse C. Crissey and lived at Lumberland, N. Y.; Patience (Patty), who married Rev. Thomas Lippincott and became the mother of Abia Swift Lippincott; Lura, who married ——— Dexter; and Isaac, who moved to Ravenna, Ohio, in 1815 and married there Eliza Thompson, of Pittsfield, Mass.

Two letters from Patty Swift to her brother Isaac and a paper silhouette are the only relics that her descendants possess of her; her death came in the earliest days of the settlement of Illinois,—her grave at Shiloh was unmarked and her memory faded away.

From Patty Swift to Isaac Swift, Cornwall, Conn.

Dearest Brother Stamford August 15th 1804

I have written to you by a private conveyance but know not as you have received the letter. I am very anxious to hear from you and my other friends, but have been deprived of that happiness entirely—I have not heard a syllable frorom any of you although I have expected it dayly. I wish very much to know what you are doing and what your calculations are. My school closes exactly seven weeks from this then I go up the river on a visit, but have not concluded whether to return or not; when I hear from my friends I shall conclude if we both take schools for the winter I should be much gratified in having you near me—You might take the school in Pionas no doubt where I taught, and I think it would suit you very well and you would be likely to please as they have been unfortunate lately in obtaining good teachers, you will therefore have the better chance—perhaps I shall conclude before I finish this letter whether I am to stay or not that you may know, and if I have an opportunity to enquire about the school I shall and inform you Good night my dear brother it is time to retire; may a merciful Providence protect us through the night!—Friday the 9th—I have received a letter from sister Crifsy this week. I expect her here on a visit soon. oh how glad I shall be to meet her again indeed there is nothing in life worth living for unless it is the society of friends and relatives. I have lately been deprived of that favor as it respects relatives but hope not always to be, still however I have many blefsings for which I ought to be very thankful—this is the twefth day of the month—Last evening I received a visit from S Davenport who informed me that he and a Mr St John from New-York expected to go to Sharon on a visit soon. I have been waiting some time that I might conclude where to spend the winter, writing now and then a line as opportunity presented, but have not vet determined, perhaps I shall write the next by the mail, but I must hear from you first, I am very anxious to hear from you put your letter in the Post Office immdately if no other opportunity presents or I

shall not receive it before my school closes, as it closes the 21st of next month. I shall expect sister C. in about a fortnight I hope she will not come till about time for my school to be out, and then bear me company up the river her family were sick with the measles therefore I think it very uncertain at what time she comes. I think it very strange that you have not written this sumere I have been here all alone as it were and had not even the privileg of hearing from any of my friends-till within a week; what have you been doing you have not been at school all this time. I think it is longer than you calculate to attend school. I expected you would have written a number of times whilst at school but I presume you found enough to attend to, though it would have been an advantage to you to have written letters often. I wish brother Adoniram or Lodema would write I should receive and answer with the greatest pleasure. I want to hear about ther little children I expect they will all grow out of my knowledge: give my love to them and to Aunt and to all enquiring friends. I should like very [much] to hear from my N Haven friends, write me all you know about them and others -

I Hope My Dear brother you will never become unsteady and a rover, but attend to something that will be of use to you in future life with assiduity do not forget the admonitions of your mother, do not forget to prepare for a future state, death must come and what is a short life to a never ending Eternity if you do not cultivate a love for virtue and religion here you cannot be happy hereafter. I must close but with reluctance, do remember my things at home and diaper and blanket at Elsworth. do not let them be lost. I intend to cary them to Lumberland if ever I have an opportunity. Yours affectionately

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The Bethlehem Female Seminary of Bethlehem, Pa., kept by Sisters of the Moravian Church, was a girls' school of some note at this date. Undoubtedly Mrs. Joseph Gilman's warm friendship for Rev. John Heck-

welder, a Moravian missionary among the Indians of Ohio, was the controlling factor in their choice of this school for two, at least, of their daughters and their granddaughter, Jane Woodbridge.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Peter G. Robbins, Andover,

Mass.

Marietta October 29th 1804

You accuse me of neglect, my dear Brother in not writing to you, and forget that I wrote last. immediately on the receipt of your last letter, I wrote you particularly of myself and family, so long a space of time has elapsed since that time that you have forgot it. - or the letter has miscarried. I am however induced to believe the latter. since this new form of Government, there is no dependance or confidence to be placed in Post-master's, or any Men that are now in Office. it is my serious Opinion that we are all going down down as fast as pofsible.—and unlefs the kind interposing hand of Providence avert the stroke, I see nothing (in respect to our Political affairs,) but blood-shed, and ruin. — but enough of Politicks for me. you say my dear Brother, you frequently hear from Sammy, but dont say what town he is in. I wish you would let me know in your next, as I want to write him. you express my dear, some inclination to hear particularly of my family. I have seven Children the oldest, Jane Robbins 14, has been at Bethlehem school 2 years, her Papa expects to go in a few weeks over the Mountains and take her from their to a school in Philadelphia, N York or Providence, to finish her Education. Joseph is a great Boy—goes to a good school here with his other Brothers & Sisters. Papa intends to put him to a Merchant in Philadelphia. Ben Ives is a fine scholer — has a retentive Memory, lerns very fast—and his Papa intends to send him over the mountains for his Education. Rebecca is an uncommon steady Child—delights in lerning—is very ingenious and discovers a remarkable taste for drawing, you would be supprized to see the landscapes, flowers &c of her own ingenuity. Robert is a fine Child-looks more like our Dear Papa, than any child he ever had. is remarkably fond of his book—when from school, he is always reading and his delight is in reading religous books—is always asking questions respecting religion, another world &c that would astonish you. dear child-O that he and all of them might grow in grace and belong to the family of Christs flock. Eliza is a very sprightly child—fond of play—but ambitious to lern. Chandler Robbins is his Mama's baby and a blue hen's chicken. my worthy and beloved Husband is well and unites with me in tenderest love to yourself. as to myself - if you recollect Aunt Cary's looks you will have some Idea of mine. tho I am much more fleshy than ever she was or our dear Mama. you may Judge by this our Country is a very healthy one. in this town there are five Physicians — whether they get enough by their practice to pay for Medicine is uncertain. if you want to make money and can keep yourself in health the falls of Ohio 4 hundred miles down the river from here is the best place I know of - but my dear Peter you must come and see the country—perhaps you would not like it - if I did not know the great expence of a Journey here I should urge it upon you very much. no circumstance would add so much to my happinels as to see you or any of my dear Brothers here. our dear Brother Isaac is in partnership with my best friend. — gone into trade — settled in Alexandria — married a fine Woman of 26 who belonged to the Methodist Church 10 years before marriage and has now presented him a fine Daughter who they call Jane Prince. after reminding you my dear Peter of the pious instructions and advice of the best of Parents which I pray Heaven will ever make a serious & lasting impression on your mind and wishing you every happiness here and hereafter I conclude your Affectionate Sister

Hannah Gilman

PS in your next—direct to M^r B I G merchant Marietta State of Ohio

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Rev. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.

Norfolk Nov^r 1st 1805.

My Dr Niece

At length we must part with Dear Sam P. who sets off this morning for Marietta. May the God of our Fathers be his God & Guide—protect & put him on the way bring him safe to you — And make him a Comfort to you & you to him—and a great Bleffing to the Chh & people there & in those Regions where the Cause of the dear Redeemer so much requires, plain-faithful Minifters — I wrote largely a fortnight paft to both Comittees of Chh & Society there respecting his Ordination &c. hope there will be a respectable Council & that the Solemnities may be so performed as to do honor to Religion & be for the peace & Satisfaction of the people there. — Your Brother is near & dear to me next to my own Sons. good Heart and is indeed a good preacher & very usefull in Christian Conference. But with respect to worldly matters will need Advice & Counfel, which you & Mr Gilman & near Friends must give as Occasion requires— My hope & prayer is that he may do worthily & be a great Bleffing to you & your Children in that Country.— I have written to Mr Badger & Tommy 1—hope you will see them there & enjoy mutual Satisfaction. Dr Hannah, may you inherit the Religion and piety of your Dr Parents—& above all things Seek first the Kingdom of God. Our affectionate Regds to your dear Hufband love to your tender Babes. That you may still see good Days, but especially obtain thro grace a glorious Inheritance beyond this World, is the real defire & prayer of y' old but Uncle Ammi R: Robbins. affectionate

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In an earlier letter Joseph Gilman mentions the prevailing land speculations of the western settlers. His

¹ His son, Rev. Thomas Robbins, the diarist, who rode five hundred miles to be present at the ordination of his cousin, Rev. Samuel P. Robbins, at Marietta, January 8, 1806.

son, Benj. Ives Gilman, seems to have been inoculated with this fever and when business conditions were not good, he was so much extended that he was at times distressed for ready money. He was a merchant in Marietta, dealt in furs, was the first ship-builder on the Ohio and owned a rope-walk.

The next letter was undoubtedly sent to Washington, D. C., as Congress had moved to the north wing of the

Capitol in 1800.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman.

Marietta Dec^r 20th 1805.

Dear Sir/

Your favour of the 5th inst has been duly recd. If Mr Martin will pay you \$4000 for the Section on the Muskingum, payable in one & two years, I should advise a compliance with the offer. Mr Seth Adams (formerly of Boston) wishes to purchase the same Land & will give one Dollar Pr acre, payable in three, four & five years. From the tenor of your Letter, I presume this offer will not be accepted. The Emigration to the State of Ohio, for the last six months, has exceeded all expectations; of course Lands are more enquired for. Your Section on the Muskingum, from its Situation, will certainly ensure a sale in a short time, on good terms; & had the Locators (Wells & Armstrong) done you justice, your property here would have been of double the value that it now is. I have not had an oppertunity of making a satisfactory Sale of a single acre of the section on Whetstone, & only a part of that on Licking - For the Sales made I am to receive payment in September next-I now have a fair prospect of selling both Sections in the course of the next fix or eight months; & the moment I receive a payment, I will remit you the amount - until then I must beg your indulgence, as it would be very injurious to me at the present time to draw from my Stock in Trade. — I now have a Brig, ready for Launching (designed for a remittance to New York) — If a War with Spain takes place, I shall be at a great lofs, what to do with her. - Perhaps the Government may wish to purchase. - She is 65 feet Keel, 22 Beam & 11 feet Hold. — Has ports for fourteen Guns & may carry sixteen—It is expected that she will be a very fast Sailer. — Her Bottom is of best White Oak, Futtocks Locust, & top timbers of red Cedar. — plank from 30 to 55 feet in length. — The Master workman is an experienced and faithful builder. & I will venture to say that the Vefsell is equal in every respect, to any one of her size in the United States, the want of Copper only excepted.—Her Hull is completely finished & the sails & rigging nearly done; and may be ready to descend the River within three weeks. — Will you permit me, Sir, to ask the favour of you, to speak to the Secretary of the Navy on this subject—should a Vefsell of this size be wanted, I can procure the most satisfactory Certificates. of the uncommon goodness of the work & materials— Gen¹ Carbury (who superintends the Gun Boats on the Ohio) has been on board and can give a description if required.—The Gun Boats will not be ready to descend the Ohio until April, & two that are building in this Town cannot be ready until the last of May. It therefore may be of efsential service to have an armed Vefsel at New Orleans, at an early period. Guns & other Warlike Stores, can be fent from Washington City, to this place (in Waggons) in 25 Days.

If the Government should have occasion to build more Vefsells on this River, I should be very glad to engage two, the ensuing season.—I have the best Workman in the Country engaged, & will undertake to build better Gun Boats than any yet built on the Ohio.—If I could obtain a contract for two, I could appropriate the price

of one to the Debt due for the Land.

I have the pleasure to inform you that my worthy parents enjoy good health. Shall we never have the pleasure of seeing you, Sir, at Marietta? You will recollect that we are only eight days journey from Washington City.

I am Sir very respectfully your

obliged humble Servant,

Benja Ives Gilman.

N. B. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a Letter for Gov. Bowen, in order to ensure a fafe conveyance. Will you please to place it in the Post Office, without franking—His fon (formerly Judge Bowen of Georgia) is now

in this Town, in a most melancholly situation being deprived of his reason, & is in confinement.

Between this letter and the next, Judge Joseph Gilman died at Marietta, May 14, 1806, aged sixty-eight. He was buried there, but many years after his grandson, Winthrop S. Gilman, brought his body to New York and had it interred in the Gilman plot in Greenwood Cemetery.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman's fifth son, Arthur, named for Gen. Arthur St. Clair, was born June 28, 1806.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman.

Marietta Nov^r 28th 1807.

Dear Sir

I wrote to You in Feb⁹ last by M^r Brown since which I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you.—I then repeated the information of my having made a contract with Daniel Stilwell to sell your Section on the Muskingum for Four thousand Dollars with Interest payable in Phila⁴ the 2⁴ day of May next (at the office of Meſs^{rs} McEuen Hale & Davison) M^r Stillwell paid \$300 in hand, which will be forfeited if he does not make the other payment at the time specefied.

Being confined to my chamber at this time by a Rheumatic complaint, I am incapable of writing more than feven or eight minutes at one time; I must therefore omit the subject of the Debt due from me for a few days, when I hope to be rid of this troublesome complaint.

I remain Sir very respectfully

Your obt Servt

Benja Ives Gilman.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, Philadelphia.¹

Marietta Jan. 6th. 1808.

Dear Sir,—

By the last mail, I had the pleasure of receiving your MS. loaned by Daniel Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

esteemed favour of—ult & a Duplicate of a letter dated —th of Oct., the original of which has not been received. The delicate and very kind manner in which you mention the Debt due from me for land, has impressed me with the livliest sentiments of gratitude. The heavy loi's which I sustained last spring, by the wanton destruction of a ship on the falls of the Ohio, has so far deranged my affairs, as to render it impossible for me to make the payments intended & which I so ardently wish. Of the section on Whetstone I have never been able to sell an acre until last month, when I disposed of a part amo to about \$3500 for which I rec^d Bonds on Interest secured by a mortgage. The locaters Wells & Armstrong were grofs deceivers & had a very incompetent knowledge of the land. Indeed I am not without suspicions that they would have chosen better lands for you if they had rec their premium out of each Section. I thank you, Sir. for mentioning my son Benjamin, for whose welfare we have much solicitude. When he left home I had no idea of his going so far eastward as Exeter: otherwise I should have given him letters to the friends of our family. We labour under great disadvantages in this Country on account of Schools; & in consequence of this, & some other unpleasant circumstances (always to be found in new Settlements) I have entertained serious thoughts of a removal to the Atlantic States. During the life of my dear & respected Father I felt perfectly satisfied with our situation, because I found him enjoying unusual health & happiness. During the 16 years that he resided in this Country, scarce a cloud obscured his happiness. The climate was very favourable for his peculiar constitution, & there was not anything to interrupt that literary leisure to which he was so strongly attached. Our family have not only lost a most affectionate & tender parent, but have to lament the lofs of him, who was their unerring guide, in all questions relative to Science. Morals or Belle-lettres. Since his death everthing wears a different aspect, & not having any personal or local attachments, I should quit the place without regret. The principal obstacle in the way of a removal is the heavy debt I owe you, sir, for land. It is my intention to devote the present year to settling all my mercantile affairs so that I may be ready to remove whenever other circumstances will permit. If I should sell my property here I could take with me from 30 to 40,000 Dol^s. If a sale could not be effected, I could rent my possessions in this Town & vicinity for \$1000 P an^m. Excuse me Sir for going so far into detail of my private affairs. The debt I owe you is so large that I thought it proper to make you perfectly acquainted with my situation. My excellent Mother enjoys good health & with Mrs Gilman joins me in presenting our regards. I am, Sir, very respectfully

Your obt humbe Serve

Benj. Ives Gilman N. B. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a letter for Isaac Robbins of Alex^a which contains halves of some Bank Notes. Several letters having lately miscarried, occasions my taking this freedom.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman's youngest child, Winthrop Sargent Gilman, was born March 28, 1808. Their eldest child, Jane, had married at the age of seventeen, November 10, 1807, Dudley Woodbridge, son of Hon. Dudley and Lucy (Backus) Woodbridge, of Norwich, Conn., and Marietta. She died in Marietta, September 18, 1808, at the birth of her daughter, Jane. Mr. Gilman seems to have taken his son-in-law into partnership for a while.

These business letters are particularly interesting to illustrate the difficulties of doing business at this time and the irregularities of the mail. We note the duplicate and even triplicate letters that are sent by different methods; the lack of facilities for transferring money from one place to another; the unreliability of the average man they met in business life, and the hopelessness of trying to collect debts owing to many state laws which protected the debtor.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Lexington, Ky.

Marietta Dec^r 22^d 1808—

My Dear Sir

The Western mail arrived last evening, but to my very great disappointment, no Letter for me, from Lexington.—

I mentioned the subject of a loan to the Directors Yesterday, and found them all willing to accede to your proposals. Should you find that you can purchase Tobacco with our Bank Bills, on as good terms as by Drafts on M^r Lewis, the Directors I think will be glad to purchase, even at 90 days fight.—

From the appearance of the weather, I think the River will be high enough for launching on Saturday next.—

Judge H—— is very dilatory about the Cordage. For obvious reasons I do not wish to prefs him, at this time. I feel very confident that he will not have your Hemp manufactored in time for the Schooner, unlefs additional hands are employed—Should you conclude not to return, before you descend the River, I wish you would write to him.—

I shall depend on hearing from You, immediately after your arrival at Lexington, in the meantime may Heaven protect you.— Your faithful friend & ob' serv'

Benj Ives Gilman N B. Dear little Jane is as usual, perfectly well.—If you can possibly make it convenient, I hope we shall see you again before you descend the Mississippi.—

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Lexington, Ky.

Marietta Dec^r 27th 1808—

My Dear Sir—

I wrote to you the 21st inst pr post, but presume it is yet in the Office, as the Mail was not transmitted to Chillicothe last week.—I am yet without answers from M^r T Hart & M^r Jordan.—The Mail came in on Saturday last, from the Eastward; no intelligence of any consequence.—The Embargo & non-intercourse system, appears to be the only plan, as yet adopted by the Administration.





Houses in Marietta, Ohio, built by Benj. Ives Gilman for himself and HIS EATHER, JUDGE JOSEPH GILMAN

We have had a very sudden & destructive flood since you left us. — The River rose 18 inches higher than ever known before. — The water was above the key-hole of your Store Door, and up to the Windows in your House. Through the exertions of Thomas Peirce & Mr Stone, your goods have been kept free from any material damage. — Our houses were furrounded & both Cellars filld with water. — fifteen inches more would have covered the whole of this point. — The damage to fences, bridges, &c &c is very great. — The Schooner floated off the Stocks on Saturday Evening, and is safely moored. — All business has been and still is suspended, as the water is still so deep in almost all the Streets, as to admit the passage of large Boats. —

Dear little Jane appears to grow every hour, and is perfectly well. You must have had a tedious jaunt to Chillicothe.—

Benj' Ives Gilman

Jany 7th 1809

121/2

M^r Dudley Woodbridge J^r

Lexington Kentucky

Mail. Single Sheet.

M^r Prentifs is requested to place this in Chilicothe Post Office—

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Hon. Dudley Woodbridge to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Lexington, Ky., with letters from Joseph S. Lewis & Co.

Duplicate

Phila 27th Decr 1808

Copy M^r Dudley Woodbridge J^r D^r Sir,

Your fav^r of 14 Ins^t is before us, and we are glad to see you were so soon to Set out for Kentucky to purchase the Tobacco as we think the price must under present circumstances be very low & we think will well afford us to lay out of our money for a Year at the end of which time we have no doubt our Trade will be resumed if not sooner & Tobacco does not depreciate by keeping great care should

¹ Mr. GILMAN built a house next his own for his father, and his widowed mother was probably living in it at this time.

be taken to keep it dry, in going down the river & if it should get wet it should be opened at New Orleans & the

wet seperated from the dry.—

It is not our intention to send our vefsel round until our navigation opens in February by which time we shall certainly know wheather the purchase is made & we shall be glad to have frequent advice from you on the subject. We thank you for your intention of giving us letters to houses in Kentucky after your arrival their — You will of course be charged with Interest upon our advances for you — Hemp still holds at about \$300 and nothing but an uncommon supply of country hemp can lower it, for none can come from abroad we hold our Rufsia hemp at 400 D^s & by the last accounts from England it was at \$530 — Insurance can be done here down the river without difficulty and we think there would in case of lofs be more facility in a Settlement here we therefore Should prefer making the insurance in this City please therefore after the Shipment to let us know from whence it is made in what kind of boats & the State of the river all which will have an influence on the premium — In our last we ordered the investment of the \$1500 (the amt of Mr Blennerhafsetts draft) in Tobacco on our Seperate account which we confirm and our Brothers & ourselves wishing to have a Cargo of Tobacco purchased for a Ship we propose To send To New Orleans for it and to let her lay until the Embargo is removed we request you will (after the purchase of the 200 Hh^{ds} on our Joint Acc^t) purchase as much in addition to what you buy with the \$1500 as will make up 300 Hh^{ds} say in all 500 Hh^{ds}. Your drafts will of course meet due honor & we hope you will succeed in selling them at a long Sight, you will have the same discreation as to the price &c as already given you for the purchase on our Joint account - Our object in this additional order has in some measure been created by the circumstance of your being So long in Kentucky which will enable you before the River rises to compleat the Whole purchase & also the confidence we have in you & our desire that the emolument should be thrown into your hands. The Kentucky tobacco is principally wanted for the Spanish Market & the folk description of the quality that will suit best will be of service to you in the purchase, it should be of a fine bright Color large leaf & open well & be of such a temper as to contract a good deal of Water in the preperation & fabrick of it into Segars—We have written to M^r Blenh^t about the draft for \$2000 & have no doubt he will consent to the acceptance at 6 Months when we have his ans^r we shall communicate it very truly we are your friends Joseph S Lewis & Co—Copy.

Phi^a Feb^y 2^d 1809

Copy Dudley Woodbridge Jr Dear Sir Your favr of the 12th of Jany from Marietta & Copy of that of the 2 Jany from Kentucky only reached us vesterday the original has not got to hand nor that of 31st Decr with the Letter of introduction to Mefs Hart Barker & Hart which we shall be glad to receive—We wrote you on the 27 Decr directed to Lexington & fearing that it may have miscarried we enclose a Copy you will see it contains an Order for 250 Hh^{ds} Tobacco in addition to what you have already—purchased—The Ship we propose to send to New Orleans will not be ready for 2 or 3 weeks & as some accident may prevent her geting there we think you had better put the Tobacco in charge of Messrs Amory & Callendar our friends at New Orleans which will prevent the necessity of your personal attendance at that place so much to your disadvantage as you State in your Letter if our Captain should be there in time we shall direct him to attend to the business which will save a Commission perhaps some person whom you can depend on may be going down who will at a small charge attend to it the greatest difficulty is that if our vefsel should not be there some Competant person ought to attend to the business of shipping the Tobacco here-We are well satisfied with the terms on which you have purchased the Tobacco & hope it will be of the best quality — The proportion of Yarns in your Schooner Cargo we think is rather too large in times of brisk business they do very well but now the rope makers prefer buying hemp to keep their boys & people employed the price of White Yarns is always regulated by that of Tared Cordage here which at present is 10 @ 20 drs pr Ct & if any sales are made we expect 370

@ 390 Dol* could be had for your Yarns—Kentucky Hemp will bring 290 (a 300 Ds pr Ton — Lead is worth 81., (a 9 Ds pr 1121b & the freight from N. Orleans is little or nothing as vefsels carrying Cotton want it for ballast. We should recommend your putting it into your Schooner in preference to taking it on freight.—Salt Petre is worth from 25 (a 40 Cents according to quality on which so much depends, the Kentucky will generally average 25 (a 30 Cents. We should have no objection to Join you in purchase of fifteen or Twenty tons but it will not be convenient to us to furnish all the Funds at this Time as we are loaded with a great quantity of goods which cannot be disposed of. We will accept your Bills for one half at as long sight as you can pals them, and you can draw for ²/₃ ds of your Share on its arrival here—On enquiry we find their is no danger of Hemp taking Fire unlefs very dirty & badly cured & stowed in large Bales — Insurance against Fire on the Schooner cannot be done here as our Offices except one do not take risques out of the State & that one declines it—At present Insurance from Louisville to Phi^a can probably be affected at Nine pr Cent & from New Orleans only 4 @ 5 pr Cent—A change in our political Situation would increase the latter premium — the order for Sails & Sheeves & pins shall be immediately attended to, we shall send in this Letter if possible an estimate of the Amt of the Sails, which we trust you are aware will cost a very heavy sum owing To the high price of Sail Duck, you may be alsured of our strict attention to buy on the best terms—Capt Boyle being still disengaged we have engaged him to proceed immediately to Louisville to take charge of the Schooner at Forty five Dollars pr Month to commence on his arrival their & forty five Dols to be allowed for his expences from here to Louisville—By next post we shall communicate the estimate of the Cost of the Sails & also inform you wheather we will take a concern in the Schooner & her Cargo & upon what terms we are your Friends Joseph S. Lewis & C°—P.S. It will be necessary in making the Sails to be informed of the Depth each Mast will be buried in the Hold—the distance from the Foremast To the Stern and between the foremast & Mainmast, please

also to mention the length of the Schooner on Deck As Jos. S. Lewis & C° above

Copy Copy. Phi^a Feb^y 7th 1809. M^r Dudley Woodbridge J^r D^r S^r Since writing ours of 2 Ins^t we have rec^d your fav^r of 18 Jan^y as well as that of 31 Dec^r & 2^d Jan^y with a Copy of your agreement for the Tobacco we hope our Letter of 27 Dec^r which we sent to Lexington will reach you in time to enable you to contract for 250 Hh^{ds} more at the same favourable rate, we trust however it can be had at a price not exceeding four Dollars Pr hundred delivered at New Orleans which you will understand to be our limits—Our last stated to you the rate at which Insurance can be affected & if we Shortly receive your Orders or those of Mr Gilman we do not doubt getting the Schooner & her Cargo written at the terms then quoated. —

The Canvas being at very high prices we have only ordered as many Sails as cannot be dispensed with & which Capt Boyle thinks will be enough Viz A Main Sail Foresail Foretopsail Jib & flying Jib which will require

14 pieces Rufsia Duck @ 40 ds.....560
5 pieces Ravens Duck 24.....120
Making, Twine &c about......90—770 Ds

the small articles of Sheves & Pins will Cost \$15.00

Cap^t Boyle leaves here tomorrow morning. We charge you Ninety Dollars advanced him on Acc^t—We have a favorable opinion of this Adventure by the Belle, & have no objections to take One third concern in vefsell & cargo provided it will suit you To take payt in Bills at 90 & 120 days date from the time She leaves New Orleans & that you pay us a Commission of 2½ pr Ct as usual on making the Sales of Vefsel & Cargo Say on your part We are Jos. S. Lewis & C°—Copy your Friends Marietta 27th Feby 1809

Dr Child

The foregoing are Copys of Three Letters from M^r Lewis which Mr Gilman desired me to Copy & send down by Water if Opp' presented he would Send by post a Copy—when this will reach you is uncertain as there are few or no Boats passing-We have heard nothing further respecting the Embargo, it is sayd it is to be taken off the 4th of March but they talk of Letters of Marque, reprisals &c—1 fear if taken off Trade will be so Shackled, that the repeal of the Embargo Law will answer no Salutary purpose—Our Family are well, nothing new of importance has Transpired Since you left here—W^m has returned from the Afsembly—accompanied with your Uncle Elij^h & Thomas Backus.

D. Woodbridge

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Lexington, Ky., with letters from Judge Meigs and J. S. Lewis & Co.

Copy of a Letter from Judge Meigs dated Feby 8th "Dear Sir

Upon the rect of yours I immediately applied to Secretary Smith, who discovered every desire to accommodate You, but upon enquiry found that his navy Agent in Kentucky had purchased the requisite quantity. I am sorry that it was not in my power to serve you in the mode you wished. I shall at all times be disposed to do so, & you may freely write me on any subject interesting to yourself & for the accomplishment of which I can any way assist you. The greatest contrariety of opinion prevails in the Congress, arising from a sincere desire to preserve the peace of the Union—and yet differing in the mode. No fystem has yet been adopted, but I think that the Embargo will be raised on the 4th of March next & a nonintercourse with Great Britain & France be substituted. I think you will be able early in the spring to take your Hemp to the Atlantic States & obtain a greater price than you could get from the Secretary of the Navy—If any Act of the Government shall be of any importance (in my opinion) to your commercial operations I will write you."-

Copy of a Letter from Joseph S Lewis & C^o dated Phila^d 2^d Feby 1809— [Duplicate of the letter of Feb. 2^d above omitted] Marietta March 3d 1809

My Dear Sir

The Letters of which the foregoing are copies came to hand last week & I expected to have found an oppertunity to have forwarded a Letter by Water, but have been disappointed. We have now two mails due, which are expected this evening. The offer for 1/3 of the Vefsel & Cargo, made by Mr Lewis, is too favourable to him & cannot, on my part be acceded to. I shall endeavour to purchase all the Hemp I possibly can (on our joint account) to forward by land to Philad, in order that the objection to the large quantity of yarns, may in some measure be obviated. I think ten tons may be purchased. I shall not write to Mr Lewis on the subject of Insurance until, I see or hear from you. Capt Boyle is doubtless with the Schooner before this, as he pass'd here the 16th ult. I have not heard of the Schooner since she pafs'd Gallipolis —

If Lead can be had at Louisville at 5 dol^s I think we had best purchase 10 or 15 Tons. M^r E Backus (who is now here with his fon) says that Lead could be purchased

at Genevieve in January at 3 50/100-

Of our political affairs we still remain in doubt—It is however pretty well ascertained that the present Congress will not adopt any measure more hostile than Non-Intercourse with the Belligerents. It is my present intention to leave home in time to be at Lexington the first

day of April-

Within the last fifteen days severe colds have been very prevalent in Town & many persons very sick. Our dear little Jane has been severely affected, & for two days I was not without serious apprehensions for her safety—She is now nearly recovered. Winthrop, Chandler & Arthur were all taken very violently, but now convalescent. My Dear Mother is very unwell, with the same disorder, and I consider her situation as extremely critical. Should she not grow better it will be impossible for me to leave home. I trust however, that thro' favour of divine Providence, a Life so necessary to my happiness, will yet be spared.

Should it appear that my Son Joseph cannot be of any

Service in descending the River: and if he discover an inclination to return from the Falls, I will thank you to furnish him with Funds to purchase a Horse.

Your friends are all well—William has return'd from Chillicothe apparently much disgusted with his Brother

Legislators.—

With esteem, I remain always your fincere friend Benj Ives Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Lexington, Ky.

Marietta March 10th 1809

My Dear Sir

I wrote to You the 26th ult & enclosed Mr Gallatins Letter, also the 3^d ins^t with copies of two Letters from Joseph S Lewis & Co & one from Judge Meigs:—both were forwarded pr Post.—On Wednesday last I recd Your favours, dated at Limestone 18th ult and Lexington 20th ult.—This day Mr Whitney arrived and handed me Yours of the 1st inst The Letter you mention, dated 26th ult has not been received.—I am of the opinion that it will be best for us to send our Yarns & Hemp over Land & purchase a Cargo of Tobacco.—The reason, in favour of this alteration of our plan, which has the greatest weight on my mind, is the delay in the Transportation of the Hemp & Yarns from Lexington.—According to your description of the roads, I fear the Cargo could not be forwarded to Louisville in any reasonable time.—If the Schooner should be delayed in the Mifsifsippi, for the Season, it would be attended with most ruinous conse-

I presume a Cargo of Tobacco could be procured without much delay, & that we should not meet with difficulty

in obtaining funds.—

The Hemp & Yarns will bear the transportation by Land, and leave a decent profit.—I give my opinion freely and at the same time afsure you that I shall be per-

¹ The capital of Ohio at this time.

fectly satisfied with your determination, whether it coincides with mine or not.

I have the pleasure to assure you that dear little Jane is perfectly recovered from her indisposition.—My Mother is a little better. It will not cause any alteration in the determination of the Directors of the Bank (as relates to our Loan) if all the Paper comes back in one week.—I am confident they will adhere to the bargain, altho' they may be much disappointed in the circulation of their paper.—

I shall write to Gen¹ Findlay by this days Mail, & request an answer directed to me in Lexington.—Should such a letter arrive at the Post Office, You will please to open it.—From the conversation I had with him last Summer I had every reason to suppose that he would take our Notes.—

I am apprehensive that I shall not reach Lexington until the 8th or 10th of Ap¹—From Mr Harts known liberality, I presume he would not take any advantage of the delay.—If the Hemp & Yarns are sent over-land to Phila^d I suppose we should have to pay J. S. L & C° 2½ pr C^t Commission.—In that case, I should be glad to stipulate that the property should not be sold, without our consent, & that we should have liberty to draw on him at 90/ds for ²/₃ds the am^o whenever the Yarns left Pittsburgh.—

For reasons that I will give you when we meet, I think I shall not take the money out of the Bank until the first day of April.—

Our last letters from Washington are under date of 24 ult My friend Colo T— wrote me on that day as follows "Even to this day it cannot be determined whether the Embargo is to be repealed or not.—My belief is that the Bill will be so fetter'd with other provisions that we shall not be able to vote for it, which probably is the wish of the Majority—I think the War party cannot carry their scheme into effect at any rate."—

We are anxiously looking for a mail which is due this evening—I wrote you a hasty line this day, & forwarded it to Zanesville—I shall write again tomorrow, if the mail comes in this Evening.

Your faithful friend Benj Ives Gilman

N B. Your friends are all well—

Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Lexington, Ky.

Marietta March 11 1809 —

Dear Sir

Mr. Whitney arrived yesterday & handed me Your Letter dated the 1st inst-By the last Western mail your other favours,—dated Limestone 18th ul & Lexington 21st ult came to hand.—I feel great anxiety at the prospect of so long a delay of the Schooner at the falls, as will be required from the very bad state of the roads.—Would it not be best to purchase Tobacco, if to be had, at Louisville, and fill up the Vefsel; and let our Yarns & Hemp pafs over-land to Philadelphia? Pofsibly You can purchase the Tobacco of Mr Hart, to make payment in May; by which time we could command the necessary funds.— A delay in the Mifsifsippi for a season, with a Cargo of Hemp & Yarns, would be attended with ruinous consequences.—Mr Cromwell did not come through this Town. It is probable that he exchanged his notes at M^r Vanhornes Office. I wrote you a line the 26th ult enclosing The 3d inst I forwarded pr Post a M^r Gallatins Letter. Copy of a Letter from Judge Meigs & of two from Jos. S. Lewis & C^o — Yesterday I wrote pr. Mail & also forwarded a line to Springfield, to be forwarded to you from that Post Office.—The Post came in last evening from the Eastward, but without any mail.—Non-Intercourse with France and England and a repeal of the Embargo is expected.—Dear little Jane has recovered from her cold. My Mother is better, but not without some alarming symptoms.—For reasons that will be given when we meet, I probably shall not take out our money until the first day of April.—I wrote to Gen¹ Findlay this day & requested him to say whether he did not give me reason to suppose he would take our paper—His answer will be directed to me at Lexington, should you find it in the Post Office, You will please to open it and make such use of it as you think proper.-

This letter is to be forwarded by a Boat to Limestone, and as it is very uncertain whether it will ever reach you,

I shall only add my best wishes for your health & Happiness — Benj Ives Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Lexington, Ky.

Marietta March 17th 1809

My Dear Sir/

The Post Rider came in this day with two mails & among other Letters received, one was from Mr Lewis a Copy of which is enclosed.—I have deemed the contents of this Letter of so much importance, as to forward the Copy by an Express, who I hope will be with you on tuesday next, before noon.—Your favours of the 26th ult 3d & 8th inst all came to hand on Wednesday last.—If you have not disposed of the Contract for Hemp & Yarns before this arrives; You will no doubt think it best to hold to that bargain, and my vote would be in favour of sending the whole overland, with all possible dispatch—Should you have disposed of my half of the Schooner I wish you to purchase, if possible, Hemp, Yarns or Tobacco as you may think will answer best.—I am under some apprehensions that you cannot purchase on the same Credit which I suppose you have given Mr Hart, if the Schooner is sold .- Notwithstanding you mention that it will be unnecessary to forward any money until I hear from you again: I believe I shall take out my portion of the money in Bank, (which is made payable to Mr Hart) and start for Kentucky the first of April, in the hope of making more than the Interest. In a Letter this day recd I am requested to purchase "from one hundred to two hundred hogsheads of good Tobacco" provided it can be obtained for a price not exceeding three Dollars & fifty Cents, delivered in good order at New Orleans — In the event of a purchase I am authorized to draw on Tallmadge, Smith & Co Merchants New York.—Bills at Sixty to One hundred & twenty days fight.—If you can purchase this quantity of Mr Hart, within the limits, without interfering with your other engagements, I should be well pleased & will give you the Commission, which would

be allowed to me for transacting the businefs.—I am not to be interested in any manner whatever in this purchase.

If you have fold one half of the Schooner, perhaps it may not be necessary for you to go down the River, more particularly as Mr Hart has a house in New Orleans,—I hope Joseph will consent to return from Louisville, as he cannot be of much benefit on Board. At all events, I would have him return, if you conclude not to go down in the Belle.—The uncertainty of the conveyance pr mail. mentioned in your Letters, has occasioned my sending this by Express, & I hope you will approve of the measure.—You will herewith receive a file of the National Intelligencer, contg the latest information from Washington City—In a Letter from Col^o Tallmadge he mentions that Flour had risen & Cotton & Tobacco would undoubtedly experience an advance, in consequence of the repeal of the Embargo — I am truly sorry that you should find yourself in an unpleasant situation in consequence of Gen' Findlays having refused our Notes.—I wrote to the General (as mentioned in my last) and hope you are before this time in possession of his answer.—A more positive agreement could not be made than I supposed I had made with him, & the only difficulty he started, was obviated by a special resolution of the President & Directors—I have no expectation that any arrangement can be made with the Chillicothe Bank until they find, by experience, that it will be for their interest to take our paper.—In consequence of a constant fuccession of rains, no hemp has been broken out in this quarter. I fear that it will rise — Holden offerd a person in Your Store 61/4 dol^s P Cwt—In the management of our present Businefs, I hope you will be guided foley by your Own judgment, & fo far as I am concerned, You may rest assured that I shall be perfectly satisfied with the result.—

Dear little Jane has perfectly recovered from her indisposition & is not alter'd in any way excepting by the lofs of flesh.—My good mother is much better.—Your friends are all well.—

I wrote three Letters last week, one forwarded by the Mail, one by a Boat & the other was fent to Zanesville—

I shall write again tomorrow, by M^r Seth W Nye, who will descend the River in a Keel Boat.

Your faithful friend

Benj^a Ives Gilman

N B. It may be unnecessary for me to say that I would join you in any new purchase of Hemp or Yarns, to an amount not exceeding ten thousand Dollars, provided we could pay in the paper of this Bank—

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Frankfort, Ky.

Friday 17 Mar 1809 10 OClock P M—

My Dr Sir

I wrote to you this morning & sent Robert with the Letter to the Post Office—& the Post Rider has this moment crofsed the River of course I suppose the line fent by Rob^t is not in the Mail—

On Wednesday last I rec^a your favours of the 26th ul^t 3^a & 8 ins^t—Tomorrow I shall write by S. W. Nye who

descends the River in a Keel Boat—

Little Jane is perfectly well & my Dear Mother much better—The post is waiting for this scrawl—Yours &c B. I. Gilman

Athens O
March 21ft
Forwarded
8
Lexington
Apr 3
Kentucky

M^r Dudley Woodbridge Jun^r
Lexington

Frankfort Kentucky

Mail

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr.

Copy Phila^d 4 March 1809

Dr Sir

Since our last dated 7th ult we have none of your

favours. As it may be agreeable to you to know the state of our market for Hemp & Cordage we write this Letter. American Hemp has been purchased eagerly at 350 (a 375 ds & Rufsia has been sold in New York at 475 ds—here 500 ds pr Ton is asked.—Cordage is at 25 ds pr Cwt—& we expect your yarns will produce 23 (a 24 ds which will afford a handsome profit.—Tobacco Kentucky, will command 6 to 7 ds and by the time our parcel arrives here, we expect will command 7½ & perhaps 8 ds—

The articles for your Schooner are all ready and will go by the first oppertunity, to the care of our friends

Mefsrs Amory Callender & Co-

Your friends J. S. L. & C^o Marietta 18 March 1809—

Dr Sir.

I have forwarded a Copy, fimilar to the above, by a special Meſsenger Sam¹ M°Clintock, to Lexington—Another will this day be fent to Limestone, by S. W. Nye, & this is fent under cover to Joseph.—Referring to my Letter by M°Clintock, I remain yours &c

Benjⁿ Ives Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr.

Marietta March 18th 1809

My Dear Sir

I wrote to you yesterday, & dispatch'd an Express, who will be with you (I trust) on tuesday next—I have encounter'd this expense, in consequence of the information in your favour of the 26th ult, that it would not answer to trust to the mail in conveying any information of importance.—I hope the intelligence will enable you to save, at least as much as the expense of conveying it.—As it is possible that my messenger (Sam¹ McClintock) may not reach you, I again Copy the Letter rec⁴ yesterday from J. S. L. & Co dated the 4th inst—

[Duplicate letter omitted.]

This will be forwarded by S. W. Nye who will be requested to place it in the Post Office at Maysville—

Benjamin Ives Gilman

Joseph Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Lexington, Ky.

Louisville March 20th 1809.—

Dear Sir.

The roads are so extremely bad, that there is now but very little tobacco brought in. The road to the lower landing is in such a condition that it is impossible to perswade any of them to deliver their tobacco at that warehouse.

When I came up on friday last, there were two men in town who had one hogshead of tobacco each, for sale; one of which had just been inspected, the other was to be in, the next day. The man whose tobacco had had just been inspected; offered it to me at 13/6 but would not remove it down to M^r Berthoud's ware-house. The other person offered to take, when his waggon came in, both hogsheads down, if I would give him 15/.—for his tobacco. The gentleman who superintends Mr Prathers business, told me that if they would deduct 1.25 — from the amount of the two hogsheads, for which sum I could get them taken down, he thought I had better take them. I accordingly made them that offer, but they refused to make any deduction, and left Town, on Saturday morning. day evening the waggoner came in with the other hogshead; he stoped at M^r Gwathmey's and I made him the same offer which he then refused. On monday morning I went up to the ware-house; after the tobacco had been inspected, and he found that I would not take it upon any other terms, and he found that I would not take it upon any other terms, he agreed to let me have the two hogsheads at 13/ pr Cwt neet, and deduct 1.25 for the carriage to the lower landing. I accordingly took them, and deposited the notes with M^r Prather.

If I was right in so doing, you will please to inform me by return of mail; so that if I find it impossible to get any delivered at the lower-landing; I may purchase some

more in the same manner.

In haste, Your's affectionately

Joseph Gilman.

Joseph Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., Louisville, Ky.

Louisville April 6th 1809

Dear Sir.

As the water is now upon the rise; Capt Boyle intends leaveing Shipping-Port, early to-morrow morning—. He has engaged a pilot to go down with us, to the mouth of the Ohio.—But expects you to get a person to pilot us down the Mifsifsippi.—He, also, made out a memorandum, of the articles that would be wanting for the Schooner; all of which I have procured except, four barrells of pork— (he says it will take one barrell to last us to New-Orleans; so that if you think it best, the other three barrells can be bought there.) — 5 gallons of molasses—and 30 lbs of butter.—He has since mentioned, that there will be 2 gallons of liquor, wanting for the cabin. [sic]. The butter, Mr Donaldson, (Mr Gwathmey's bar-keeper.) told me, he would have by the time that you could get here. There is also, one dozen of Chickings wanting to make out our compliment; which Mr Donaldson was to furnish. I have settled all the bills against the Schooner; except M^r Prathers—. On the 28th of last month Capt Boyle & the two seamen had a sever quarrel; they then wished to see you, to get their immediate discharge; but, have not since, said any thing about it.—Enclosed, you have a manifest; which was given me by the inspector of tobacco.—

Cap^t Boyle informs me, that he is to give his pilot \$25. You will be good enough to forward the enclosed letter, to my Father. I shall be very much obliged to you, if you would take the trouble to call at the post-office, and take out any papers, or letters, that may be there for me.

In haste Yours affectionately Joseph Gilman.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman.

Marietta Dec^r 6th 1809.

Dear Sir

Your favours of the 10th & 12th of September have

been duly received & I intended that this answer should have met you at Washington, but have delayed it a few days in order to receive information from a distant part of the State, respecting the land of Jn° Coates.—of the section that he owned only five hundred acres remain, the other part having been sold for taxes.—I have directed a person at Zanesville to purchase, provided it is offered for sale for taxes this year.—I have also been informed that a writ of attachment has been if sued & this land taken. By the attachment Law of this State, all Creditors, who present their claims within one year, are entitled to a dividend in proportion to the amount of their claims.—I have made diligent enquiry for the person of John Coates but cannot hear any thing of him, & presume he has taken fome other course.—

On the subject of the land, which ought to have been paid for long since, I wish it was in my power to give you more agreeable intelligence.—You have heretofore been informed, Sir, of the sale I made of a part of the land, amounting to three thousand dollars, the whole of which was to have been paid to me before this time, but not one cent have I received.—the purchaser built a Saw & Grist mill & had a good prospect, when an unusual flood came & swept away the whole of the Dam. The improvements that have been made on the land are said to amount to more than \$2500.—The debt is secured to me by a mortgage.—By the provisions of a Law passed during the continuance of the Embargo, property cannot be fold in this State, unless it will bring a portion of its appraised value; of course debts of any magnitude cannot be collected during the continuance of the Law.—I am perfectly willing to renew the Notes & if you will fend on a Blank it shall be executed & returned.—It will occasion my paying compound interest, but of this I have no right to complain.—On the notes which I have received in payment for all Land sold I can only obtain simple interest, as the mortgages are predicated on the notes, & if the latter should be altered, the former would be of no avail.

I am fully sensible, Sir, of the very great indulgence you have shewn me, & it is a severe mortification to me, to be under the necessity of asking further favour. Be-

lieving it to be impracticable to sell the whole, without a heavy lofs, for prompt pay, & being very desirous that you should be made perfectly safe, induces me to make the following proposal. I will deposit the notes which I receive in payment, in the hands of David Putnam Esq^r, Cashier of the Bank in this Town, (& who is a collecting attorney, of the strictest integrity) as your property or as a collateral security. Whenever the money is collected it shall be deposited in Bank for you, or remitted agreeably to your directions.—The notes would be secured by mortgages on the land, & my endorsement would be always binding on me. I hope this proposal, Sir, will meet with your approbation; at the same time I am free to confess, that I shall not have any cause to murmur, if you demand an immediate facrifice of my property to pay the debt.

It affords me great pleasure to learn that my dear for Benjamin acquitted himself in such a manner as to acquire your approbation, at the late examination. Most devoutly do I wish that my situation would permit my other children to share in the benefits of the Exeter Academy.—Circumstances, however, over which I had not any controul, compelled me to seek an establishment in this Country, & it would be a weakness now to repine at des-

tiny.

Mr Stillwell, who contracted with me for the section of your Land on Muskingum, has made very valuable improvements on the Land.—At the time the contract was made, I told him that you considered money worth eight pr cent interest, which was an inducement to sell. I therefore think it would be reasonable to demand interest, at that rate, for the delay.—I certainly should not have made the contract with him, if I had not supposed that he would have paid the money in Philad at the time appointed. He afsured me that he had fold his property in Bucks County & that the money would certainly be ready before the time agreed upon.—From the unexpected & rapid growth of Zanesville, the Land is much more valuable than was expected.

With sentiments of respect & esteem, I remain Sir your obliged hum^b serv^t

Benj^a Ives Gilman.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Dudley Woodbridge, Jr.

Marietta Dec^r 29th 1809—

Dr Sir

Your favour of the 12th inst came to hand, by the last mail from Chillicothe.—The information respecting the Steam Engine, convinces me that it would eventually answer well here; but at present it would take too much Capital.—On Wednesday next I shall have the business done at Bank, & on this day week will forward the money or a draft.—

I apprehend that I did not express myself clearly, in the hasty note, written at the moment of your departure. It certainly could not be my wish to have the business continued, if at any time it should appear unprofitable: & most assuredly I could never wish for a continuance, under any circumstances whatever, if it required a sacrifice on your part, of interest or personal convenience.—

For the first year, I presume little could be made, but after that I think you would find the establishment both

pleasant & profitable.

M^{rs} Gilman has just returned from a visit to dear little Jane, whom she found very well & more interesting than ever.—

I remain always your faithful friend & obt servt Benj Ives Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman.

Marietta May 18th 1810.

Dear Sir,

As Congress has adjourned & I have not rec^d any advice from you relative to Jn^o Coates Note (in answer to a Letter I wrote to you the 3^d of April: I am apprehensive that my Letter was lost.—It is necessary that the original Note should be forwarded without delay, as I shall

¹ Mr. Dudley Woodbridge married (2) Maria Morgan. The marriage may have taken place before this date, as Jane was apparently no longer living with her grandparents.

have to send it 120 miles after its arrival at this place.— The prospect of recovering, is small; as the Land has been sold for taxes; & probably a Law fuit must be encountered, before the Creditors of Coates, will be able to obtain possession.

I remain very respectfully, your obliged & ob' serv'
Benja Ives Gilman.

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Mrs. Gilman left three of her children in New England in 1810-11: Rebecca, whom she placed in a Portland, Me., boarding-school and who made her uncle Chandler Robbins' home her headquarters; Benjamin Ives, Jr., at Brown University, and Joseph at Harvard.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Dr. and Mrs. Peter G. Robbins, Lynn, Mass.

Marietta January 15th 1811

My Dear Brother and Sister.

It was my intention to have written to you immediately on my arrival here, but we have had a constant succession of rains which has produced such a rise of water, as render^d it impossible for the post-rider to perform his office.—The waters have now fallen and I hasten to relieve the anxiety you may feel on my account. I cannot agree with you, my dears that its best not to take a formal leave. I have felt, since I left you, as if I had done wrong, in not kissing your cheek, and sheding a tear over you. the scene is distressing I acknowledge, but after we are seperated, we feel a melancholy pleasure in the reflection, which pleasure we are deprived of, if we hide from each other.

I paſs'¹ a few days with our good uncle at Norfolk—who has not of late, enjoy¹ very good health, consequently looks more like Pa'a than ever—I told him your determination to visit him—he exclamed dear child is it poſsible that I shall see him, before I die?—now, my dear Brother—I beg if it be poſsible—that you will not disappoint his expectations. depend on it—'twill be a constant source of satisfaction to you, all your life.—I can

speak from experience. - I left him, and his worthy family, on Monday 22 October, at 2 o clock P. M. and through the goodness of God, arrived in safety, at my beloved home, on the 9th of Nov.—We were favourd with excellent roads—and fine weather, till 8th Novr—when our fall rains commenced.—I rode 2 days in the rain, and was wet through.—but was so anxious to see home, that I could not stop. (O God! my dear Hannah, how frail is human happiness! how uncertain our dearest joys!)1 however — I did not take cold — and never enjoy'd better health for which blefsing I hope ever to possels a thankful heart.—

It was very dark and rainy, when I arrived, and no one saw me, till I enter'd the parlour, and took hold of Eliza. the whole family were instantly alarmed, and the domesticks tumble'd in, one over the other, with the strongest expressions of Joy and affection.—When I reflect on my flight to N E it appears like a pleasing dreem.—I often when alone, find myself laughing at some happy scenes, past with you.—particularly our Journey to Hallowell. O the bridge Abba, shall you ever forget it? I dare not tell my husband of that I have related some circumstances of our delightful Journey, and he has clapt his hands together and exclaimed - O Hannah - if I had known it, I should have been distracted. I never shall trust you from me again.

but really Sister, my Journey to N E - affords me a constant source of satisfaction.—and now—dearest of sister's—when shall we see each other again. Alafs—if you do not come into this country, I fear we shall be seperated many - many years .- how is your sweet little Chandler - I long to kifs him again - how is your dear mother. "boid an girls comd out to play"—is sounding in my ears now. present my most affectionate regards to her, and your amiable sisters — whom I think of, very often. also cousin Nancy — and my good friend Curtin. tell her I often think of the good supper we made so happily together, from her bounty—write soon, my dear, and tell me, if the clouds are blown over - and you are any more reconciled to the inhabitants of Lynn-if you

¹ Note in another hand.

should move from thence - let me know. - I received a very good Letter from Rebecca—a few days since, she was well-and appears very fond of Harriott, and pleased with her situation.—she inclosed Harriotts profile—and will send her uncles in her next letter.—which I am much pleased to hear.—as I have yours, and Peter's — which I value very much.—Brother Samuel is very well-his wife, has improved astonishingly.-she makes him an excellent wife.—and appears fond of him. she has lately made a profession of religion - and is esteem'd—I hope my dear Brother, you will ne[ver go] to Boston, while Joseph is there, without calling on him, and when with him, do observe if his cloaths are decent, and if not, charge him to purchase things necel's arv and comfortable.—his Pa'a has remitted money to him since I came home — and he will have no excuse.— I have one favour to ask of you sister - which I beg you to reflect upon. When brother Chandler comes to see us, (which he afsured me he should) - I entreat you - if your husband cannot come - to accompany him. take a pleasant season of the year — from Boston to Alexandria by water — the cost is triffling — then from there here by land, if you will let me know when you will be there - I will meet you at Isaac's. think of it, and tell me your minds. All send love - particularly my beloved, who is prepared to love you. H Gilman.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Benj. Clark Gilman, Exeter, N. H.

Marietta March 11th 1811.—

My Dear Sir/

I now transmit T. & W. Gilmans note of hand, which would have been sent sooner, but for an error made in endorsing the Letter received from you — When the Note came to hand, I saw no prospect of obtaining payment, and carefully folded it in the Letter, which by mistake I marked as from Thomas Gilman.— Afterwards I

¹ Benj. Clark Gilman was a grandson of Col. John Gilman and married a daughter of Josiah Gilman.





Mrs. Joseph Gilman (Rebucca Ives)
From a portrait owned by her great grandson, Theodore Gilman,
of Yonkers, N. Y.

searched my files many times for your Letter, but in vain: and at last concluded to examine each Letter seperately; when the error was detected.—I have to express my regret for this accidental delay of the Note, and hope that Thomas may now be in a situation to make payment, without inconvenience.—

From the bearer, M^r Joshua James, I have had the pleasure of receiving a detailed account of my Exeter friends & relatives; who will ever be held dear in my

Memory.—

When my dear M^{rs} Gilman left home last July, I had not the least expectation of her returning until the ensuing spring.—It was my intention to have met her in New England in the month of February & remained there until the last of April.—Her anxiety to see the young children she left behind, has deprived me of the pleasure of visiting my native Town, at this time: & I know not when I can again make it convenient to leave home.—In a Maſsachusetts Register recently received, I noticed with pleasure your connexion with the Boston Aqueduct Society.—I sincerely hope you will find the busineſs both profitable & pleasant.—

My excellent Mother enjoys better health than is usual for a person of her years. — My family is about as large as yours, but I am far from enjoying the same blefsing that you do, in having good Schools at hand, for the edu-

cation of children.—

We live here in a fine climate, in a land of great plenty,

but most shamefully destitute of Schools.—

I am at all times anxious to hear of the welfare of my Cousins, and if you can find time occasionally to write, You will greatly oblige, Dear Sir,

Your affectionate friend & very humble Servant Benj^a Ives Gilman

¹ Mrs. GILMAN was sixty-five years old.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Providence 17th Nov 1813.

Dear Sir/

It was my intention to have waited on You, previously to my leaving home, to converse on the subject of the debt which I have so long owed you: but some unexpected business prevented me.—You probably, Sir, were much surprised to hear of my removal from the State of Ohio, before the discharge of the debt so long due: had I supposed that my remaining there would have accelerated the payment, I certainly should not have left that Country. One principal object in the removal was to liberate myself, & I feel confident that it will be much fooner effected than if I had remained. In addition to the bonds I hold for Land sold, will be all my property in Ohio, which is now offer'd for sale; & from both sources I am sanguine in the opinion that I shall foon be able to draw funds sufficient to discharge the last cent I owe. In consequence of the lofs of about \$22,000 in active property. I have found myself much embarrassed for Years past, but I have always had the consolation of knowing that my property, in any event, would more than discharge my debts. My real estate at a moderate valuation, together with Bonds &c will pay my debts & leave me from 30 to 40 thousand dollars. Being so largely indebted to You, Sir, I feel it a duty to explain & give a detail of my circumstances & prospects: & I hope my motive will be a fufficient apology for troubling You with my personal concerns. Principally thro' the instrumentallity of my worthy relative Mr Ives, I have agreed to enter into Commission business in this City, with Mr Otis Ammidon formerly of Providence. The first object will be to sell, on Commission, the Cotton fabrics, of New England. We have the assurance of support, from almost all the persons concerned in the Cotton business in Rhode Island, &

¹ This letter, though written in Providence, was handed to Hon. Nicholas Gilman in Philadelphia.

² His cousin, Thomas P. Ives, of Providence, who married Hope Brown.

the house of Brown & Ives will give all their business & influence to our establishment. Indeed their kindness has exceeded my warmest expectations, for they have offer'd to make advances, at all times, to the amo of \$25,000: provided the manufacturers should have occasion for money, on their consignments. My knowledge of Mr Ammidon arises principally from the information of Mr Ives, who represents him as a man of strict integrity & a complete merchant. Mr A. has been Cashier of the Providence Bank & left it on account of its being too sedantary an employment. From this business I hope to derive a sum equal to the support of my family: & should it fall short I can draw some assistance from the State of Ohio.

With these prospects, I look forward to a day when I can have the pleasure of taking up my Bond & thanking You for Your kind indulgence.

Very respectfully Your Obe humb Servt
Benja Ives Gilman.

Philad Nov 24

N B. I intended to have forwarded this from Providence p^r post, but finding that I should not be detained there so long as was expected, concluded to bring it on.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Hon. Nicholas Gilman, Washington City.

Marietta 14th April 1814

Dear Sir/

I did not discover, until after the closing of the Mail the 10th inst, that I had only cover'd three Notes of \$50 ea:—I now enclose the others & hope the whole will arrive in safety.—

I remain, fir, very respectfully Your obt Servt Benja Ives Gilman

1814 May 12^{th} Rec^d Three Bills 2 at 50.....100 1.....100

\$200

Benj. Ives Gilman to Nathaniel Gilman, Exeter, N. H.1

Philad 11th May 1814.

My dear Sir.

I returned a few days since from the State of Ohio, and cannot deny myself the melancholly satisfaction of condoling with you, for the lofs of your excellent brother. On my way home, I took up a newspaper at Lancaster & the first paragraph that met my eye, was the notice of your brothers death.2 This mournful intelligence was so unexpected, so totally unlook'd for, that I could not, & cannot yet, scarcely realize the lofs. You have doubtlefs had a detailed account of his illness from Capt. Odlin: I shall, neverthelefs, communicate all that has been mentioned to me respecting this distrefsing events, believing that you will derive a melancholy satisfaction, even from a repetition of the account of events that occur'd in the last days of one so highly valued, so deserving of esteem. On Friday the 22d inst. the day that your brother returned to this City, he called at our house, & my good Mother & Mrs Gilman say that he never appeared in better health & spirits. On Monday he repeated the call & appeared quite as well as on his first visit. On that day or the next, he dined with Mr Newbold. In the evening following he was indisposed & in the course of the night had a violent ague fit, attended with most excruciating pains in the side. Doc. Chapman was called in the morning & ordered a copious bleeding & administered some The Doctor spoke of the disease as a common cold, which would easily give way to medicine. My family were not informed of his illness until after his removal to Capt. Odlins on Thursday. My Mother instantly called & found him quite ill and much distressed for breath.

¹ MS. loaned by Daniel Gilman, Exeter, N. H. Nathaniel Gilman and his brothers, Hon. Nicholas Gilman and Governor John Taylor Gilman, were grandsons of the "Uncle Danli" of whom Joseph Gilman wrote in his early letters. As Nathaniel married Abigail Odlin and his sister Elizabeth Gilman married (1) Dudley Odlin, we suppose that the Capt. Odlin at whose house in Philadelphia Hon. Nicholas Gilman died, was a connection and possibly his nephew.

² Hon. Nicholas Gilman died May 2, 1814.

He observed that the pain in his side had been most excruciating the night that he was seized, & added that he thought it occasioned by a cold caught on board the steamboat. On friday, saturday & Sunday the disorder appeared fluctuating & sometimes favourable symptoms intervened. A free prespiration was kept up, during the whole time. On Monday the pain ceased & he had (in the morning) a few moments conversation with Doc. Logan respecting an Armistice. He said he felt better excepting great weakness & observed that he did not know what the consequences would be, if he should not be relieved from such unusual distressing debility. At this time wine & brandy were copiously administered, but without the least effect. It was mentioned that perhaps he would breathe with more ease, if raised a little higher in bed, he assented & while Capt. Odlin was sustaining him in this position, without a groan he expired.

During his illness he was not a moment deranged; & his mind appeared active, unclouded & perfectly serene, thro' the whole progress of the disease. He exhibited all that firmness of character, and delicate propriety of conduct in sickness, for which he was so remarkable when in health. Mrs and Capt. Odlin were as assiduous as possible, & no attentions were omitted which promised benefit, or that could smooth the descent to the grave. The funeral was conducted with that propriety which could be wished, and with all those respectful attentions, gratifying to to the friends of the deceased. The disorder is

now pronounced a violent Typhus Fever.

It would have been highly gratifying to me, if I could have been present to have tendered my services in the sick chamber, and I very much regret that I had not returned a few days sooner, in order that I might, at least had the mournful satisfaction of following the remains, of one whom I so highly respected, to the Silent tomb. My good Mother & Mrs Gilman join me in presenting most respectful Compliments of Condolence to Gov. Gilman's & your family, sir, & in wishes that you may all find consolation from Him, who alone, can pour the balm of consolation into the breasts of the afflicted.

I am sir, very respectfully your

ob. & humble Serv^t Benj. Ives Gilman

H. W. Noble ¹ to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Marietta 29th Jany 1815

Respected Madam

I write this, to put you in mind of an old acquaintance of yours in this country, who thinks a great deal of you and one that so highly respects, and values you that he is fearful that the bustle of the City and the succession of new objects will cause you to forget him—I consider myself, at present as an exile from all that is really pleasurable in life, and that Marietta is to be viewed in the same light, contrasted with Philadelphia, or Boston, as Siberia or Kamskatca, but I expect when the Hartford convention has settled the affairs of the Nation to be recalled—In the meantime I have nothing to do, but to hope for better times

"Exiles they say subsist on Hope

"Delusive hope! that pants for distant good

"To Good that mocks approach

But I must go soon, if at all, for I find I am growing old at a great rate, and must if my remove is procrastinated, share the fate of good old Moles, who

"From fair Pisgahs height
"The Land of Canaan eyed

"Surveyed the region with delight "He saw—came down—and dyed

You see what a wonderful taste for poetry I have— Indeed Dear Madam. I very much long to see you, and all the dear family—There is every thing to put me in mind of you, and every thing to cause regret—Still, I love my friends so dearly, that I cannot but rejoice in any circumstance that favors their happiness

The place affords nothing new at present. I generally go once a week to visit your particular friend Mifs B—and that is on Sunday evenings, when I have my roastmeat clothes on—and we never fail of talking good

A member of Mr. GILMAN'S household in Marietta, and tutor to the children.

things of you and the family — Please to speak of me in the kindest terms to the amiable M^r Gilman Love to Robert, tell him he "owes me one" Compliments to my pretty friend Mifs Eliza If I have not written to her, yet I still think of her with all possible friendship and esteem—Love to the little Boys—and for yourself, please to accept every thing that the purest friendship and respect can dictate from

Madam Your obedient humble servant H W Nobl

Madam Gilman will please to peruse the enclosed, and if she finds nothing in it objectionable, she will deliver it otherwise retain it—

M^{rs} Rebecca Gilman Philadelphia

¹ Allegany.

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Patty Swift was visiting her sister, Mrs. Jesse Crissey, in Lumberland when these verses were addressed to her by the young Quaker she afterwards married, Thomas Lippincott, who was employed at the time by Patty's uncle, Jesse Crissey. Mr. Lippincott was born in Salem, N. J. He left an interesting picture of the town in "My Native Village," a story of his early life. His ancestry was purely Quaker and emigrated to this country on account of religious persecution.

THOMAS LIPPINCOTT to PATTY SWIFT.

A Prayer for the Lord's Pardoning Mercy and purifying Grace.

Oh/, Lord: my heart is prone to sin; Take it, Great God! and wash it clean; Let Jesus purge it with His Blood Until the Lord pronounce it good.

Oh! let me in Repentance pray That Thou wilt take my Sins away;

Let me in meek Submission kneel And humbly ask to do Thy will.

'Though I have wandered from Thy laws Through all the sins false pleasures cause, Yet may I ask that Thou'lt forgive And let me deep repenting, live?

Oh! let not Satan's tempting wiles Seduce me from Thy gracious smiles. But keep my heart secured from harms Encircled round by Jesus' arms.

Thus let me live in Jesus' love
'Till Time's clogged wheels shall cease to move
Oh! then my Soul shall soar away
To Realms of Everlasting Day.

My Dear Friend -

I beg leave to dedicate this first poetical production of my serious thoughts, to you who I conceive have been instrumental in awakening my Soul from the deep lethargy in which she slumbered, thus adding to the many obligations which I am under, the most important favor which can be conferred.

May He who sees you do good in private reward you openly, according to the rich treasures of His Grace. And may you while continuing in this life, pofsefs His Love abundantly and in that to come Eternal Happinefs.

Your obliged and sincere friend

Thos Lippincott

Ten Mile River Nov. 11th 1815. Miss Martha Swift

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Benj. Ives Gilman to his wife, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Marietta 14th Feby, 1816.

I wrote to you, my dear Wife, last evening & having just heard of a private conveyance, I cannot let it pass unimproved. My evenings are generally passed alone, in my chamber, where I have a good warm fire. Writing

to you is the principal amusement. My letters are not all forwarded; for so sure as one is kept on hand half a day, I begin to think it too gay or too serious & throw it in the fire. Sometimes I can beguile the tedious moments by closing my eyes, mounting my feet upon the chimney-piece immagining myself at my own fireside. It is then I fancy my little boys are in the room with me: that I hear Winthrop exulting at having the list & Arthur archly demanding a larger slice of bread & butter. The delusion is fleeting as pleasant & I waken from my daydreams to a full sense of the bitterness of my exile. Perhaps you will say, why do you not return? Prompted by the warmth of my feelings I sometimes pettishly say I will be off, I will no longer protract this absence from all I hold dear, for sordid drofs. Then comes Prudence whispering in my ear. - There is a debt to be secured. A farm to be sold. Notes to be collected. Fur contracts to be executed. The Dame also admonishes me, by saying that business is dull at Philada: there are more persons in the Store than can be employed: Expenses are heavy: Rents must be punctually paid School bills discharged &c &c &c I then conclude that it is best for me to remain here, so long as I can be useful to our Firm.— From present appearances I may yet be detained here fix weeks.—Tomorrow I go to Zanesville & expect to be absent about ten days.—I contemplate descending the Ohio (after my return from Zanesville) as far as Sandy River & if I hear of Cartwright my voyage may be continued to Cincinnati. Yesterday I visited your Brother.¹ Mrs Robbins suffers severely, with her broken breast. By the last mail I rec^a the third letter from Col^o Sargent. He is more pressing than ever to have me visit Natchez² & says "indeed I am sure you will come"—Before I can finish our business here, it will be too late for me to think of seeing New Orleans this season. The Washington Benevolent Society are to have a festive meeting the 22d. My Journey to Zanesville furnishes a decent apology for my not joining in the amusements of the day: & were I to

¹ Rev. Samuel P. Robbins.

² Col. Sargent was at this time governor of Mississippi and was living at his home, "Gloster Place," in Natchez.

be present, it would be a joylet's day to me for I should

be thinking of those who are far away.—

Captain Greene has not yet arrived.—I anticipate the pleasure of a Letter from you & a second Sheet of Rebeccas interesting Journal: & therefore am quite impatient at the Captains delay. I have had one visit from Fulcher & I hope it will not be repeated. He entertained me with Nozle Town anecdotes for three long hours, & I should not have escaped then, had not the Dinner hour arrived.

Judge Cutler is very friendly & clever. Mrs Cutler

presents her regards. She has only five children.

I believe that you have not had an account of the progrefs of my businefs, in any former Letter. I have sold, the Little Schooner built by M^r Whitney: the Galor Farm on Duck Creek; 300 acres of Land at Ludlows Ripple: 100 acres at Old Town Creek: a Brick Store (formerly occupied by John Leavens) at Springfield: some house Lots & out Lots in Marietta & a house Lot opposite the great Esq^r Sharps on Point Harmar. This day I have rented my favorite Farm to a very respectable Tenant, from New England. Now is not all this very interesting information. I dare say you never heard of the Galor Farm &c &c before & I am sure You never wish to see or hear of them again.

This Letter will probably be favour'd by a Mr Maybury, a very worthy young man who resides at Parkersburgh.—His Sister is married to H. L. Prentifs. She is as much respected, as her husband is disliked: & I could

hardly say more in her favour.

With respect to Your sending out one of our Sons to relieve me, as suggested in my last: I hardly know what to say. I do not like to have either of them take the hazard of crofsing the mountains in the Stage: & it will be too expensive to buy a Horse at Philada—Do, however, as may be thought best. Ask Mr. A—1 to come & see you & hold a family consultation. Present my best respects to Mrs Hodgdon.—Tell the Colonel, that I think he ought to send some one out, to look up his Miami Land. Farms within 20 or 30 miles of Cincinnati, & unimproved

¹ Mr. Ammidon, Mr. GILMAN'S partner.

Lands have risen astonishingly.—Tell my dear children to Love & respect their Grandma'a: to be dutiful to You; & kind to each other & may our Heavenly Father protect & suffer us all to meet again in this World & prepare us for a more blessed ftate. Such is the prayer of your affectionate husband.

Benja Ives Gilman.

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Rev. Samuel P. Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Marietta, March 31, 1816. Sab. ev^g

My dear Sister.

You have doubtless ere this, heard of your dear husband's illness. It is the prevailing winter fever. It is a little more than a fortnight since he was taken. But, for the greater part of the past week, he has been confined to his bed; and is now. And I shall view myself as acting an unfriendly part, not to tell you that he is extreme-Still, God is able to raise, from the borders of the grave. And this has been my fervent prayer (with respect to him) this evening. But, whatever may be His holy will, O that he, & you, and I, and all connected, may be prepared for it! I have been over repeatedly, the past week, to see him. (For, he is at his own mansionhouse; sick in the same chamber that I was.) Yesterday I was over, in the afternoon, and was glad to find him so much better at times, than the day before. He talked very pleasantly with me:—and, in the course of conversation, remarked, "My heart is overflowing with gratitude to the Almighty for the more favourable prospect of my recovery;" immediately upon uttering which, he put the sheet over his face, and shed a flood of tears. He acknowledged further that "if God was pleased to take him away he should not have a word to say."—I made some remarks, and left him - mentioning to him that I should be over again, this evening, or in the morning. But, this evening (about an hour since) Mr Henderson called, and informed me of what I mentioned to you on the other page, that he is very low; so low, that the Doctors (Reignier & Cotton) thought it adviseable for his

friends not to come in to see him. Reignier stays with him to-night. I have, once & again, offered my services, to watch, &c. but my dear brother told me, it was unnecessary; he had assistance enough. I never saw a man so afraid of making trouble. Mr Henderson told me that he was taken worse soon after I left there, yesterday;—that his friends called to see him, and that he said to them, "Gentlemen, you see here what you must all come to; and be assured that there is no other Foundation on which it will do to build a hope of future happiness, but the Rock of ages."

I do sincerely hope to find him better, in the morning. But, I am almost afraid to hear. O may you & I be prepared for whatever may be the will of a holy God, respecting him; realizing that though His judgments are a great deep, & his ways unsearchable, yet, they are all just & right;—and, that it becomes us to "be still." Robert is well. My family also; and send an affectionate remembrance. O, how I wish, at times, (if it were the will of Providence) that you were here! I am inclined to think that Mr Gilman's anxiety of mind to see his fam-

ily has been but the more injurious to his health.

Monday morning, 7 o' clock. April 1. Mr Gilman rested pretty quietly; but is yet extremely feeble. 1 oclock, P. M. I have just come from there. Very low, takes but little notice of anything. Doctor Cotton told me some expressions he uttered on Saturday evening, when in great distress, & thought to be near the close of life. One was, "I am a great sinner, have nothing to plead, but the prayer of the publican, 'God be merciful to me a sinner'!' which, he repeated three or four times. He spoke very calmly about his burial, & very particularly— "wishing to be laid in his father's tomb, and that the man who made it, might be sent for to open it." He said, he "wished to be laid as nigh his father as just to leave room between them for the remains of his dear mother, in case she & the family should return to this country which he thought 'twas likely they would do." He gave some very good advice to Robert. Told him. "he should leave him & the rest some property; but that he must "not set his heart upon it, but lay up for himself

treasure in heaven." He then gave some particular directions about his worldly interest, and seemed to regret that he had not made over to Ma'am, in writing, some property that belonged to her, but which he held in his own name, and which would as it now stood, fall to his family, after his decease." and gave express directions respecting it. While Mr Woodbridge was present I think & Mr Ward & others, he reminded them of "the insufficiency of any earthly inheritance to make [torn]

O, I can't but hope, if he should recover, that this sickness will be a mean of saving good to his soul, and thro' his instrumentality, to the souls of his dear fam[torn]

Tuesday April 2. Mr Gilman is much better. I was surpri[torn] the alteration in him. His fever seems to have left him. I have every [reason] to think, it was the same kind of fever with that which has pre[vailed] in the winter, in many places, & which has been so mortal; and, of which, [torn] around us have lately died:—(Major Stanley of Duck Creek, for one; and Mr Bric [torn] in-law, who used to live at Belpre.) It is called by many the spotted fever. [torn] week ago, Mr Gilman's feet were spotted; so that he had to have recourse [to stim]ulants to keep the blood in proper circulation. (Brother Frank Goodwin, I suppose, you [torn]

Thursday. April 4th. I have not yet been over to see M^r. G. this morning. (It is now 7 o'clock) But from what I hear, he is in a state of convalescency; and, I hope, will be restored to you in God's own time, once more. But, it is the general opinion that it will not be prudent for him to set out on his journey even if he is able, under 3 or 4 weeks. Yesterday, P. M. he appeared quite smart; compared with two or three days since. D^r Cotton mentioned to me the other day another expression of M^r Gilman's in his apparently dying moments;—a verse from Watts which he repeated, I believe more than once:— "Could I but climb where Moses stood," &c (the whole verse)—

We are fixing to make a visit today, down to our

¹ His mother.

Mother's. I shall drop this in the office on my way—at Point Harmar. We are well as usual. Do write.

Your affectionate brother

Samuel P. Robbins.

A very interesting letter from my dear brother Sam' relating to my beloved husband.

H. G.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Rev. Isaac Robbins, Alexandria, D. C.

Philadelphia April 17th 1816

M^r Amidon has written repeatedly to you, my dear Brother, since the sickness of the best of husband's, as I know your anxiety to hear further from him must be great, I will transcribe a letter from our dear brother Sammy, which we received in course.

[A copy of the previous letter follows.]

since this letter of brother Sammy's, my dear brother, we have rec^d 2 from Robert, mentioning that his dear Pa'a is recovering as fast as his physicians can expect considering he has been so very low.—rejoice with us, my brother, and blefs the Lord for all that he has done. the first intelegence we had, was in a letter from our son Robert who went on providentially, to relieve his Pa'a, that he might return to his family.—but Gods ways, are not our's. Robert had arrived about ten days, when his dear father was seized with this dreadful fever.—Our distrefs, was great beyond discription, and we could only hear from him twice a week. but blefsed be God, the throne of grace, was accefsable. that was all my consolation. we, as a distrefsed family, put up publick prayers, and private. our dear christian friends here, were constantly with us, praying for us, and mixing their tears with ours. never shall I forget their kindnefs. I have reason to believe their prayers were heard, and that God in his unbounded mercy, has spared his life, and will grant us the favour to see his face once more.—and O my dear brother—have we not good reason to believe that the blefsed spirit whose office it is to convert a soul—has

changed his heart.¹ Pray for us my dear, and for him.—that he may be deliver⁴ from the fear of man that bringeth a snare—and come out from the world and be seperate—and own Jesus before the world.—I acknowledge that we do not deserve such a mercy—but God is able I know to do all that he needs for Jesus sake—and I trust he will.—Our family are thro divine goodnefs well, and beg to Join me in affectionate remembrance to you all—remember me particularly to my dear sister—and tell her to rejoice with us.—our dear brother Philemon, I was told by Frank Le Baron, has faint turns—and they think he will probably die in one of them. Bro Frank Goodwin is dead.²—your dear friend M¹ Haskins has been very sick & is still very feeble.—I wish my dear, you would write soon to your ever affectionate sister

Hannah

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My dear Wife, Marietta 9th May 1816.

Your precious Letter of the 29th ult has been received. I rejoice always to hear of the continued health of those who are more dear to me than life: & humbly trust that our Heavenly Father will permit us again to meet & to thank him for all his blefsings. We are so anxious to see you here, that I have consented to have Robert mention, in his two last Letters to have you come on with Colo Stone. On more reflection I do not feel much pleased with the project. Unlefs You have a strong desire to visit with Your Brother, I would not have you undertake the long & tedious Journey. A variety of reasons will present themselves to your mind against the measure, & some of them may be decisive. Perhaps you have not yet secured a House. This is all important. I desired Robert in his last to say that I had very little choice as to Streets. If possible obtain one with sufficient room & a good Yard. It is also desirable not to be compel'd to move, at the end of the Year.

¹ His son, Winthrop Sargent Gilman, in later years spoke of Mr. Gilman as a sincere christian, but the type of religion which was presented to him was not of the kind to make a strong appeal to his reserved nature.

² Dr. Francis LeBaron Goodwin, Mrs. Gilman's brother-in-law.

The Disorder which has confined me since the cefsation of the Fever, has been painful as you can possibly immagine. This day there has been an intermission of pain & I flatter myself that the worst is over. My principal reliance, as to medicine, is on sulphur & Cream of Tartar. A surgical operation has been performed, but has not afforded much relief. If you should come out with Col^o

Stone, pray be very careful of your health.

Our Dear Son Robert has been as kind & attentive to me, as a person possibly could be: & I sometimes should have despaired, had he not been here. Tell Chandler & my dear little Boys that your account of their progrefs at School gives me much pleasure. I have received an excellent Letter from my worthy Friend M^r Ammidon. Please to tell him that I am yet too feeble to write an answer. My dear son Benjamin must be very much confined & have a tedious time of it. When Robert returns I hope he will be in some measure relieved. It is quite healthy in this Town & has been so ever since my arrival: but very sickly in many parts of the Country. My pen & ink are so very bad that I fear you will not be able to decypher this Letter. Remember me most dutifully to my dear Mother & affectionately to my beloved Children. That Heaven may protect you all, is the constant prayer of your Affectionate Husband

> Benj^a Ives Gilman May 9th 1816.

Dear Mother

My last letter I mentioned with Pa'as consent your journey out to this Country, & altho' what Pa'a has said in this letter is rather against your coming, I think you certainly ought to come, not on account of his sicknefs for he is now by the blefsing of the Almighty considered almost well, & if he hears you are not coming he will have a much greater anxiety about his family & will I have no doubt set out too soon for home—but if you should come he will be relieved from great anxiety & of course, will stay for you to make a visit & which will enable him to get entirely well before he goes. & your being with him he will go much more leisurely home when once started than he otherwise would.

In haste yrs etc

Robert.

About 1816, Arthur and Winthrop S. Gilman, little boys of ten and eight respectively, were sent to Mr. Pennell's farm near Philadelphia, where the butter for the family was made. These letters, in very childish handwritings, were carefully preserved by their mother.

Arthur Gilman to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Philadel-

phia, Pa.

Friday afternoon

My dear Mother

We arrived here about 5 o'clock on Wednesday in good health, after a pretty good jolting in the market cart. It is a handso[me] brick house surrounded with trees and on [torn] of a hill, Our break[fast we] have at 6 o'clock dinner at 12, & supper at 6. I cannot write much as I have just finish'd eating. Preserves, ham, apples, custard pudding &c, &c When you answer this I want you to tell me about the fever as they have a report here of its being very sickly in Philadelphia. Give my love to all the family in which Winthrop joins—Your affectionate son

AG:

PS burn this

Excuse it as I was in a great hurry & a very bad pen

H Gilman No No 106 Arch S^t Philada The first letter my dear little boy ever wrote HG Highly prized by his mother

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

The first letter my dear little boy ever wrote.

Highly priz'd by his mother H G.

August 11.

My dear Mother

I received your letter of the 9 Stating the arrival of Joseph which Pleased Me very much. You wished me

to tell yow how we enjoyed ourselves that is of course very well. Arthur begins to get a little tired having nothing to do. last sunday we did not go to church but stayed in our room reading. We have not seen M^r D. as he has not been to see Mr Pennell. We received the shirts and handkercheifs. I wish that you would send by M^r Pennell my black Pantaloons and coat Saturday for I expect to go to church. give my love to Joseph, and family to M^{rs} Sargent and her family I remain your Affectionate Son W S Gilman

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Thomas Lippincott became a Presbyterian under the influence of his wife but this document shows the Quaker trend of thought.

An agreement between Thos Lippincott and Patty Swift on their wedding day.

Considering that all our actions ought to tend to the Glory of God, that the union which we propose entering this day into is a state peculiarly important, that it is the bounden duty of every one, particularly (but not exclusively) those who have taken upon them the name of the Blessed Jesus, to walk humbly and with circumspection, and that our frail nature is too apt to require more manifest (although not stronger) ties to bind us in the performance of our duty: As also that we may have a constant remembrance before us; We do hereby in humble reliance on the Divine support for which we ardently pray, engage to ourselves and each other, that we will to the best of our abilities, with the afsistance of God, observe and perform the following mutual covenant.

First—We will enter into the married state with, as far as possible pure and proper motives, and a determination to live to and for each other in the bonds of pure love, cemented, enlarged and sanctified by the hope

we have in Christ our Redeemer!

2. We will as much as in us lies, avoid all jealousies, bickerings or acrimonious feelings toward each other, using gentle admonition rather than abrupt reproof, and cherishing harmony and affection. 3. We will never

(when in a proper situation for the performance of it) omit the daily worship of God in our family, not ever lie down at night without having jointly or separately put up our petition to the God of our Salvation, that He will enable us to avoid every thing that may tend to weaken

our love to Jesus, or to each other.

4. Industry and frugality are ever necessary: But in an uncommon manner indispensible with us. We will therefore encourage each other in the performance of our several avocations, and be content although our house may not be splemdid, nor our board superabundant. "Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right." Prov. 16th. 8

5 We will endeavour to banish noise or unseemly mirth from our dwelling—while the cheering sound of God's

praises shall enliven our hours of leisure.

6 Our lips shall constantly have the guard of discretion set over them; Especially we will avoid conversing of our neighbours faults or follies, lest while viewing their

sins we forget our own.

7 Should it please God to give us children, we will in all things endeavour to rear them in His fear, never suffering parental affection to prevent the performance of our duty—at the same time studiously avoiding sudden parsion and untimely severity: But most particularly remember that "Example is better than precept." 8. While we cherish love to each other, we will not suffer our hearts to grow cold to the social duties of life, "using hospitality without grudging" and performing the various offices of social intercourse with cheerfulness and alacrity.

9 Although we will not entirely withdraw from the world, yet will we particularly encourage acquaintance with the followers of the Lamb, that we may, as much as the corruption of our hearts will admit "the communion

of saints", realize it to our souls comfort.

10. We will endeavour to put unbounded confidence in Providence; being afsured that "He doth all things well".—

And in this confidence we do this day dedicate ourselves, our time, services, faculties and powers, to Him,

the All-wise disposer of events, sincerely praying that His blefsing may rest upon our union of love, and that after He shall have carried us through the varying scenes of this life (in which we humbly pray that we may be completely resigned to His will) We may be again united in that World of love where God Himself fills every soul with fullness of love, joy, gratitude and delight.—
Lumberland, August 15th 1816—
Tho Lippincott

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Patty Swift

Benj. Ives Gilman's second daughter, Rebecca, was married on November 3, 1817, at her father's home in Philadelphia, to John S. Miller, a planter of Lebanon, Miss. When they went to the south, they visited Governor and Mrs. Sargent at Gloster Place, a fine old house in Natchez, for several months before going to their own plantation.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. Kingsley, Nashville,

Tenn.

Copy of a letter written to Mrs Kingsley—

A thousand thanks are due my dear Mrs Kingsley for your agreeable and excellent letter. When we parted you was so kind as to say you would write us on your arrival at Nashville—and I have long been expecting the pleasure of a line and I assure you as your health was extremely delicate, had my fears that you had left this world of sin and sorrow, to be forever with the lord. But O how were they dissipated on the receipt of your friendly letter. As I perused it, my heart reciprocated in all your sorrows, and in all your Joys .- When I found what the Lord had done for your best of friends I exclaim^d aloud O "what shall I render to the Lord, for all his mercies." Surely "this is the Lords doings and marvelous in our eyes." I have often thought my dear friend-and O have I not found by experience that Afflictions though they may seem severe—Yet do they not bring us near to God. Let us praise him for what he has done for your husband - and plead with him for the

salvation of others. I was ready to say when perusing your letter, hast thou but one blefsing? Blefs mine even my husband—O my father. I know that his hand is not shortned that it cannot save—neither is his ear heavy that it cannot hear. I know that he can brake in pieces the stoutest heart. His mercies are Infinite. Blefsed be his name, for a throne of grace. O what a prevaledge that we are allow, worthless as we are to come to his footstool — spread our wants before him, and in faith plead for mercies for our husband's & children and hope for a blefsing. I desire to be grateful to a holy God, that he has. I humbly trust, given me a heart to give myself — my husband — my children — and all I have to him, to be disposed of as he see's best—and to lie in his hands, as clay in the hands of the Potter. If he, in his infinite wisdom see's fit to withhold the blefsings I want—O may I feel that humble submission becoming a child of God—rejoice that he has the disposal of me & mine — and say not my will — but thine be done. It gave me pain to hear that Mr Blackburn had left Nashville. because I think him a faithful servant of christ's — and I know also, that he was a favourite preacher of yours. How misterious are the ways of Providence. Religion my friend is at present in a low state with us. Profelsors are cold—and vice abounds. There is however, a praying few who meet in various parts of the city, and say with Jacob—we will not let thee go—except thou blefs us. May the Lord hear their prayers, and graciously send us a revival from his presence. You kindly ask for my family — Mr Gilman has gone into the western country. Since I had the pleasure of seeing you our dear daughter Rebecca has married—and is settled at Natchez.

I took the liberty to show your letter to M^{rs} Ralston, & M^{rs} Latimer. We mix^d our tears together, and I trust can unite our praises with you, to our great Redeemer.— I am sorry to say M^{rs} Ralston is in poor health. She smiled upon me and said, I am going—& if I can only get a house built for the poor widows—no matter how soon. She has a complication of disorders and is often confined to her chamber.—Such characters, dear M^{rs} Kingsley—we want to retain.

My Mother & family unite with me in kind remembrance to yourself & Mr Kingsley. Tell your beloved husband to go on in the strength of Jehovah, and he will hereafter obtain a crown of immortal glory. And if we are never more to see each other in this life may we be prepared to spend an eternity together in that world where there is no sin, where nothing impure can enter, and where we shall be forever with our blefsed saviour. It would give me great pleasure to hear from you occasionly, accept dear madam the best wishes and prayers for your happinels from your sincere friend H Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. Joseph Battell, Norfolk, Conn.

Philadelphia 24th Jany 1817

Often my dear cousin since we parted, have I thought of you both and the agreeable interview we had, which now appears like a pleasing dream. I have frequently determined to write even before I received your last letter, informing me of the birth of another daughter, and now give me leave to congratulate you on that happy event.—May its precious life be spared, may it be a blessing to its parents and an ornament to the Church.—

You recollect my dear Cousin that you left us in great trouble, the not without hope.—About the first of May my beloved husband recovered so slowly and became so depressed in spirits that he consented I should be sent for to nurse and accompany him home, should his life be spared. I accordingly left Philadelphia in company with Coll. Stone, (one of our old neighbors) and arrived there in safety—and found him much better than I expected.—And from the conversation which my fond heart long'd to introduce, had a hope that he had passed from death into life. He was not sufficiently recruited to

¹ MS. owned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo. Mrs. Brant is a granddaughter of Mrs. John S. Miller, and a daughter of the little Elizabeth Miller who was the object of Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman's eare for so long. Elizabeth married Rev. Henry S. Coe and lived in St. Louis during her later years.

bear the journey, until August, at which time we left Marietta and thro the care of a merciful God we arrived in safety at our own house.—And O what an affecting and happy meeting we had.—I was ready to exclaim what shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits. Surely goodness and mercy have followed me all my days.—My mind dwelt much on the mercy's of my God, to such a great sinner.—But O my dear Cousin how soon we come down from the mount.—Company, family cares and church dissentions, how they divide my wav'ring mind and leave but half for God.—

We have indeed had a time of tryal. On our arrival we found the Church in the greatest confusion. All the Elders and all the leading characters in the Church were disaffected towards Mr. Skinner, in consequence of some imprudent expressions in two or three sermons, which led them to think he had alter'd his sentiments and become a Hopkinsian. The alarm spread like fire and nothing was talked of but Hopkinsian HERESY—One or two of the brethren went to him, and he presented his sermons which they examined and found nothing reprehensible. By this time the Church were divided, one party for Dr. Janeway, the other for Mr. Skinner. Mr. S's friends were so anxious least he should be dismifsed from the Church that they became so prejudiced against Dr. J—v they could not bare to hear him speak. On the contrary, the other party were determined Mr. S should leave the Church. It was then thought best for the session to wait on Mr. Skinner and advise him, for the peace of the Church, to give up his pastoral union.— Mr. S asked them if they had any charge to bring against him—to which they reply'd in the negative. He then said he could not consent to that mode of proceeding and if they left the Church, they must bring him to tryal. They then call'd a meeting of the congregation - without any tryal.—The question was: As we believe it is for the grace of the Church, shall the pastoral relation between the Rev. T. H. Skinner and his Church be

¹ Rev. Samuel Hopkins, a student under Jonathan Edwards, published in 1793 a "System of Doctrines contained in Divine Revelation Explained and Defended."

disolved.—The other party being the most numerous the vote was carried against him. A meeting was then call'd of the presbytery who advised Mr. Skinner, for the peace of the Church, to leave them. And voted that everything that had passed on both sides should be eraced from the records of the Church and buried in oblivion.—And Mr. S was to have his salary continued until he was settled. He submitted, and was difmifsed. Immediately on his difmifsion, the Pastor of the 3rd Presbiterian Church ask'd a dismifsion from his church on account of ill health, and recommended Mr. Skinner to his people who gave him a call, which he accepted and is now install'd pastor of that Church. 60 of our communicants have

withdrawn and join'd his Church. In all 140.

Now my beloved cousin you will naturally ask, which party do you belong to? Neither. As soon as we returned I found what a situation the Church was in. Mr. G. said that as we were strangers, he thought it most proper for us to be perfectly neutral. So we have heard the stories and witnefs'd the feelings of both parties and kept them in our own bosoms. The greatest number of our acquaintances were of Mr. S's party. And we have been obliged to hear many bitter and unchristian speeches from some who profess much. And I fear it has had a very serious effect on the mind of the best of friends. He now says—if these people are christians, I shall never be a christian. His anxious, enquiring mind is at The blessed spirit whom I had reason to think was striving with him seems to have left him. But, my cousin,—what a consoling thought—The Lord reigns and can over rule all for his glory and the good of his creatures. His hand is not shortned that it cannot save. Neither is his ear heavy that it cannot hear. Pray for him, my dear, and pray for worthless me.—I feel alone. We have a large family of dear children, all eager for the amusements of this world — none but myself to allure them to Jesus. O for grace to discharge this great duty. I am ready to say, who is sufficient for these things.—I have felt very much deprest since Mr. S left the Church. You know, my dear cousin, he was my favorite minister. It was my constant prayer that God would heal the

breaches in the Church and take him not away from us. and for a long time I felt as if I could not give him up.— But as we had taken the neutral ground, Mr. G said he couldn't leave the Church.—So I have lost my favorite, but its all for the best. Perhaps I lean'd too much on my minister and forgot, at times, my Heavenly Father. Doct. J—y is an amiable man and pious christian, but to me a dull and lifeless preacher. Do, my dear, accept of my thanks for the excellent sermon. Tis indeed a treat. What a pious man he must be.—I rejoice that he is there. O may he prove a blessing to that people, and may the mantle of Elijah rest upon him. When you see my dear cousin Thomas 1 do insist that he make us a visit, at the sitting of the General Assembly. And tell him to let me know in season, that I may not take any into my family. Tell my dear Aunt 2 there is none living I want to see so much as herself.—Remember me affectionately to Mr. Battell and all my cousins. I suppose cousin Nat'l is with you - I have not seen him but once since August. Brother Sam is well and prosperous.—His congregation is more numerous and more attentiveseveral additions to the Church and great attention to religion. You see, my dear Sally, I have written as your requested, very particularly. Mr. G, my mother and the girls unite with me in love to you all. Mr G says there has not been a sale of plate since you left us, or he should have attended to your memorandum. I don't know when I felt more gratified than on receiving a letter from Mr. Flint, who I find has made you a visit. O he is a precious

Farewell my dear cousin, that we may again soon meet is the prayer of your

Affectionate

H G

P. S. Your little M^r Ely belongs to the Phil^a Presbetery. Each take their turn to preach instalation sermons. It was his turn. He was one of M^r Skinners greatest oposers. Now he thinks he has been persecuted.

¹ Rev. Thomas Robbins, the diarist; Mrs. Battell's brother.

² Mrs. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins, Mrs. Battell's mother.

Joseph Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.¹

[probably 1817]

[Dear Chan]dler

I well recollect what delight it used to afford me, when at Andover, to have a letter from home. The Post Office, when I was at the Academy, was kept near a mile from the Institution, on the road to Haverhill very near old Professor Pearson's. And I have not forgotten the long walks I used to take down there, and on reaching the office, find I had no letter. I can therefore easily conceive your feelings; and set down to offer you one letter; which, however poor — still, its from home. I am writting at our Market Street window,—the noisev market at my elbow, and the old shrill cry of "buy any peaches," "hot corn" - "pepper pot right hot", stunning my ears. So, should you attempt a critique upon my letter, you will make due allowance for all these untoward circumstances. Your letter from Andover of 22d ultimo, was duly recd—as also one to Papa of same date. There was one little book in my drawer at Cambridge which I intended to put a veto on your taking—it is a very valuable little pocket Horace: in red morocco binding—hope you have not taken it to Andover—as I wish for it very much at home, and it would never answer for an Acad-[torn] very much [torn] progress [torn] and will [torn] fears, soon—Papa, you know, left us last thursday week on his journey through the western country. We hope he is now at Marietta, where he will probably spend the winter, boarding, we trust, with Mr Whitney. It would gratify him very much indeed, to receive a letter from you, giving an account of your situation how you like Andover — your Studies &c &c — Make him a long letter, and direct it to "Marietta, Point Harmar Post Office, Ohio"—We received a letter from him at Bedford Pa (about half way to Pittsburgh) He expected to be in Pittsburgh on Wednesday last, and at Marietta,

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa. William Stewart Gilman is a grandson of Dr. Chandler R. Gilman, being the son of the late Daniel Trimble and Mary (Stewart) Gilman.

in a few days after. We had a letter from Rebecca this morning. All well, and happy. Mr Washington Sargent left us, on his return to Cambridge, on tuesday of last week. We expect he arrives at Boston this evening. He has an epistle for you from Eliza. In your letter to Papa you mention having written him from Boston, but the letter was never received. In your next letter to me (which must be soon, but not at all interfering with your studies) you must give me a particular account of the minutiae of your situation, studies, progress & & & & You know every particular, concerning Andover, the Academy and Mr Adams, will be interesting to me. Also give an account of your funds & expenses: you must learn, with all, to become something of a financier. [torn] you [torn] you try [torn] ards? [torn] Mrs Blanchard [is one] of the very [best] women in Andover. If you know her, remember me very kindly to her, Mr B and family. Do you know Mr Samuel Merrill—he is one of the excellent of the earth—if not yet acquainted with him, I can give you a letter of introduction—I intended to have done it when you left us. He was my private instructor: and is a man I shall always delight to see. Our family are all very well and each send you a great deal of love. All that remains for me to desire, is, that you make the greatest possible exertions to progress rapidly in your studies: and to [learn] your lessons so perfect, that Mr Adams will delight [to hear] you recite. Very much indeed, depends on your getting your lessons perfeetly—the first term. You can in no possible way ingratiate yourself so well with Mr Adams as by correct conduct, and giving him (or his assistant, and then it goes right to Mr A's ears) elegant recitations, while you are now becoming acquainted with him. I see Mr Porter preached the sermon at the opening the new Chapel. O I should have delighted to have heard it—it must have been excellent indeed. I suppose you hear Mr Porter, Mr Stuart and Doct Woods: Did you ever hear such admirable preaching? I would give a great deal to be by your side every sunday. Give my best regards to M^r Adams. Your affectionate Brother

Joseph Gilman [I sup]pose you never thing of going to bed before

twelve—and light your candle again at 5 in [the] morning. I make it a rule never to quote from memory, and my Virgil is not at hand, or I would give [his] elegant advice about the midnight lamp—Will keep it for another letter.

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Again Thomas Lippincott and his wife come into the correspondence. Their daughter was born July 3, 1817, at Lumberland, Sullivan County, N. Y., and was named Abiah Swift for Mrs. Lippincott's sister. On the 28th of October of the same year, Mr. and Mrs. Lippincott took their three-months-old baby and started for Pittsburgh in a one-horse wagon, to meet Mr. Lippincott's brother Samuel.

The best time for setting out on this journey across the mountains was in the early fall, as the roads were drier and provisions and feed cheaper. Rough wagons were specially constructed to carry the belongings of the travelers, some of which were springless and had a rocker nailed on for the comfort of the mother. Easton, Pa., was on the favorite route westward for New Englanders and, it is said, 511 wagons with 3,066 persons, sometimes accompanied with their cattle, passed through the place in one month of this year, 1817.

Mr. Lappincott's description of the roads sounds mild when compared with those of Margaret Van Horn Dwight, whose Journey from Connecticut to Ohio was taken in 1810. She gives lively pictures of the depth of mud, etc., which she encountered and many were the amusing tales told by travelers about this road. It became in time so bad, that when Baltimore took advantage of the situation and constructed a fine, well-kept road to Wheeling, travel was immediately diverted and Philadelphia lost her former preëminence as the business center for Western merchants. In Arthur Gilman's let-

ter to his brother Chandler of October 21, 1823, he writes of going over this new road for the first time and of the (then) unusually short time the journey took.

The "elegant bridge" at Easton gives us a vision which is not fulfilled by Miss Dwight's description. She says: "The bridge over it (the Delaware) is elegant I think.—It is covered and has 16 windows on each side."

At the time of the Rev. Thomas Lippincott's death, in 1869, a full pencilled diary of this journey was in existence and extracts were then made for an obituary in the *Presbytery Reporter* of Alton, Ill. The diary has been lost, but we take the substance of it from the *Reporter* as the detailed descriptions are interesting because many of the family had traveled over the same route and, we presume, had had quite as severe experiences. The mysterious part of the journey is that the baby survived it, and not only that, but lived to a beautiful old age as the wife and widow of Winthrop S. Gilman, having had unusually good health during most of her eighty-four years. Several names are left blank in this transcription, because they were illegible.

The first day the travellers went eight miles; the second, twenty, and at the end of the third day they were in Sussex County, New Jersey. On October 31, they reached Hope, in Warren County, and Mr. Lippincott begins:

Weather unfavorable, threatening a long storm, Country pleasant.

Nov. 2 Sabbath Morning. Still detained at Hope by the rain, which, however, seems less violent. Propose attempting a start. At this place we were very kindly entertained in the family of a hospitable farmer. Mr.

Nov. 2, Arrived at Easton, Penn. Dark when we passed over the elegant bridge, and we were thereby prevented from viewing it. 22 miles.

Nov. 3d. Arrived five miles west of Allentown, Lehigh County. Miserable entertainment. Sign of three kegs. Initiated into the ancient and no doubt respectable custom of sleeping under the bed. Traveled 23 miles.

Nov. 4th. Traveled 23 miles. On the 5th we were at Womelsdorf, having passed through Reading, 13½ miles. On the 6th, at 3 P.M., we reached Lebanon, 14 miles, when a heavy rain induced us to put up. Lebanon is the shiretown of Lebanon County with a court house of brick. On the 7th we came to Hummelstown, 16 miles. The roads are so heavy that it is very tedious and fatiguing traveling. On the 8th we reached Harrisburg, 9 miles. Stopped to try to get some of our load taken on. Surveyed the public buildings and a bridge over the Susquehannah. Tarried at Harrisburg until noon of the 10th, when we came on 11 miles. Roads worse and worse. Very dark before could get into harbor. On the 11th we arrived at Stoughstown, 18½ miles. Very disobliging

people at the tavern.

On the 12th arrived at — Valley, Stayed at — They were cross and disagreeable. On the 13th we reached Fort Middleton, 14 miles. On the 14th Mr. Webster's town, Providence. Bedford County, 15 miles; on the 15th we arrive at Bedford, 16 miles. A chain bridge over the Juniata, one mile from Webster's and a new, elegant stone bridge over the same river, one mile from Bedford. 16th Set out from Bedford at 10 A.M., and arrived at the foot of the mountains at sundown. Applied as I thought to the landlady at T. Burns and was not very politely refused. Proceded up the mountain and about one mile up broke the hinder axle-tree short off. Got out of the wagon and made our way on foot to find a shelter. Applied at the house of a blacksmith, Henry Darr, and was very hospitably, though rudely received by both man and wife, although they do not keep a licensed tayern, nor have they accommodations for trayelers. 17th. Took my wagon 3 miles back to have a new axle-tree put in. Very cold storm—sleet and rain. 18th.

Left Henry Darr's at noon to go up the Alleghany. Arrived at _____, 9 miles. The last three miles were continued sloughs; near miring several times. 19th. Cold, blustering weather. Set out at 9 o'clock A.M. and arrived at Dennison's at the foot of Laurel Hill, 13 miles. Laurel Hill still before me. 20th. Set out from Dennison's to go up the dreaded Laurel Hill, about 8 o'clock. After a mile of level road, but very bad traveling, owing to the mud being very deep and frozen just so as to let the horse through, came to the mountain. Ascended by the old road much easier than I had calculated; but found the hill on the west much worse than the east. We, however, got over safely and proceded on to Youngstown, 20 miles. 21st. Set out after 9 o'clock and after wading through deep mud six miles, came to the old turnpike, which is much cut by the heavy wagons. Arrived about 7 o'clock at Mr. Loumer's, having passed through Greensburg and traveled this day 21 miles. 22nd. Set out from Mr. Loumer's at 71% o'clock and after a very fatiguing day as a conclusion to our travel by land arrived at Pittsburg at dark. Disappointment is still our lot. Brother Samuel had started in August or September for St. Louis. We find also that the season is so far advanced as to make it difficult to get a passage to St. Louis. We remained in Pittsburg until Monday, Dec. 1st, 1817, when we set out about dark with Mr. George Haven, wife and family, Miss Willis and a number of others, the whole amounting to twenty-five persons in a flat bottom boat twenty-four or twenty-five feet long. It was a Monongahela flat-boat about half the length of those generally used at the time in conveying produce to New Orleans, and like them covered over with a crowning roof which was the deck on which the navigators walked and the covering of a cabin below.

^{1&#}x27;'The flat-bottom boat is a mere raft, with sides and a roof; . . . An immense oar is placed on the roof on each side near the bow (which has given these boats the nickname of 'broad horns') and another at the stern. These are used only to direct the course of the flat, which is allowed to float with the current. . .'' Letters from the West, 324, by Judge Hall. London. 1828. It is said that about one-quarter of these boats were lost in transit.

The boat was very much crowded and superlatively uncomfortable by reason not only of the crowd, the freight and the smoke but also of the kind of company we found ourselves in. Drinking sailors, profane young men, and vulgar old men and women. Such is the society we are obliged to mingle with in a space of about ten feet square. We contrived, however, to fix a bed for the female part of our particular company, consisting of Miss Willis, Mrs. Haven and two children and Mrs. L. and child, six persons in one bed. Mr. Haven and myself reserved a berth above for ourselves; but, owing to the danger of running at this low stage of water, without a pilot acquainted with the river, we could get no sleep nor even attempted to turn in this night. After running about ten miles we laid by at the foot of an island.

Dec. 2nd. Heavy wind ahead and started pretty early, but on account of the wind, put in awhile. Shore rocky. Put off and by hard pulling contrived to keep moving until night and passed by two boats of about our own dimensions. Met two keel boats ascending the river. The shore of the river thus far is uneven in some places mountainous banks at others flat. Some few log huts scattered along, very rarely a good comfortable house. We are near Beaver. I feel sleepy but am on the full watch on account of the high wind and the smoky chim-

ney. Have not slept for forty-two hours.

Dec. 3rd. Weather unpromising and disagreeable; high wind; could not run this day and after toiling with the oars a considerable time put in having run but four

miles. Passed Beaver an inconsiderable place.

Dec. 4th. Very cold and the river full of ice. The owner of the boat had started when I got up but was already endeavoring to gain a landing which we found extremely difficult. But the danger of running was so great that we must by all means effect it if possible. After pulling against the ice and with the assistance of some people on rafts, which were landed, an opening was made in the ice and we are now snugly moored close to a

¹ The keel-boat had "an elegant form" and was propelled by "oars, sails and poles." It could return up the river against the current, although sometimes it was pulled "up-stream by the bushes."

bold shore. But while the ice is rapidly making around us and the channel is full of floating ice the prospect is

gloomy. We made today about six miles.

5th. Weather getting colder and ice running still more. Find ourselves likely to remain in this place sometime. Went towards evening to find a place for our females and children and obtained the consent of Mrs. Crail to have them take shelter in her house.

6th. Took the women to Mrs. Crail's and placed them comfortably. Taking them and the bedding, etc, up oc-

cupied the whole day.

7th. Sabbath. E'en Sunday shines no Sabbath Day for me. Amidst thoughtless and even profane people the conversation is of a disagreeable unprofitable nature. No time for meditation. "Wo is me, for I dwell in the tents of Kedar."

8th. The weather more moderate and hope begins to brighten. Took a walk to Georgetown, five miles for the

purpose of sending a letter to Dr. Swift.

Georgetown is situated upon the left bank of the Ohio on a plain considerably elevated above the water but the houses generally look decayed and the place is insignificant. Returned to the boat and found the owner and hands preparing to start on the morrow.

9th. Set out early in the morning: weather pleasant and ice much diminished in quantity. Run 21 miles and landed just below Neaslys cluster of islands on the Vir-

ginia side.

10th. Put off again. Pleasant weather, promising rain. Mr. Haven and myself with two others went off from the boat and went to Steubenville Ohio, to get provisions. Steubenville is a pretty smart place of considerable business. Saw Mr. and Mrs. H—— formerly of Pittsburg. They sent their regards to brother Samuel. Rode off to the boat again and run 29 miles to within two miles of Charlestown. Landed on the Ohio side.

11th. Passed Charlestown in the morning: so foggy that we could not see the houses distinctly. Passed Wheeling. Nearly opposite Wheeling on the Ohio side is the village of Canton. Wheeling is apparently a smart place. Passed McMahon's Island and fastened just be-

low it to the right shore.

12th. Rainy morning; started at five o'clock; passed Pultney before day; passed the celebrated mounds or tunuli on Mr. Tomlinson's; Run to Fish Creek, 23 miles;

Wind high all the afternoon.

13th. Set afloat about four o'clock and came to the end of Long Creek 35 miles by 9 P.M.; still raining; river rising; arrived at Marietta at four o'clock on Sunday morning, 25 miles. Marietta is a very pretty place elegantly situated but liable to inundations.

14th Sunday. Started after having landed Mr. and Mrs. —— about sunrise; but soon after we had started the wind rose and after rocking in the waves and toiling at the oars we were forced to put in having made but

four and one half miles.

Monday 15th. Wind high; had to work hard all day and run 20 miles to within one fourth mile of Hocking River; snowy day; at 9 P.M. put off again; clear moonlight; went to bed and at one o'clock A.M. called up with Mr. H. and Mr. Baker to take our watch; by 6 next morning had come to George's Island having run since 9

o'clock the preceding day 30 miles.

Tuesday 16th. Continued running this day; weather fine; some snow squalls however; by night reached Campaign Creek, 39 miles; still running; our watch; pass the Great Kanawha River about 9 o'clock, a beautiful river of Virginia Point Pleasant at its mouth; passed Gallipolis in the night and could only tell by the dim light of a cloud that hid the moon that the situation is very fine on the second bank which runs in a slope from the first. The river takes a bend here and gives the town, which is situated in the curve a semi-lunar form. An island lies a little above it.

Wednesday 17th. Passed the village of Guyandotte having run from Campaign Creek 48 miles; the weather is calm and pleasant for the season and the water is pretty good; so that we run at about the rate of three miles per hour but for the want of islands to serve for milestones we cannot keep a correct reckoning; supposed we had run to Stone's Creek at sundown 27 miles from Guyandotte. It is now one o'clock Thursday morning and we are now about closing our watch having run without trouble or fatigue thus far tonight.

Thursday 18th. Snowy morning but damp and promising rain; calm and good running until toward evening when the wind arose and we were compelled to stop at Graham's Station distant from Stone's Creek 61½ miles, having run from the mouth of the Hocking to this place without stopping the boat; was passed at two o'clock this afternoon by the steamboat built by Evans, Stockhouse and Rogers, of Pittsburg.¹ She moved majestically along at a rapid rate.

Friday 19th. Started from Graham's Station at 8½ o'clock; wind blowing ahead fresh and very cold: passed Manchester about 10 o'clock; prettily situated; arrived at Maysville at 6½ P.M. 34 miles; fine moonlight; cold but calm. At 9 o'clock attempted to put off; but the wind arose and we were compelled to put in at this town.

Saturday 20th. Very high wind and intensely cold. Thermometer 12 degrees below zero; remained at Maysville, a great landing place, and place of great business. Mr. John Armstrong keeps a large store. About 5 p.m. wind fell and we put off; fine night; clear moonlight but cold; passed Augusta at 1 o'clock at night; turned in.

Sunday 21st. Boat still running and at night arrived at Cincinnati 65 miles. Cincinnati is an elegant town but as it was dark could not see much of it; saw Mr. Robbins of Connecticut, very polite and agreeable; put off again at ten o'clock; night calm and moonlight but cold.

Monday 22nd. Continued running all night at a good rate; passed a number of towns and streams, many of which we did not see; arrived toward evening at Big Bone Lick Creek, from Cincinnati, 56 miles; fine evening and we kept on our course smoothly gliding along the placid stream with scarcely a zephyr to ripple the glassy waves. A family living in their boat moored at the mouth of the Big Bone about making a settlement in Kentucky.

Tuesday 23rd. Passed Madison early in the morning; did not see it; but 55 miles is great running and very

¹ This was possibly the Oliver Evans, which is eleventh on the list of early steamboats running on the Ohio and the sixth built at Pittsburgh. It was only 75 tons.

² Rev. Samuel P. Robbins, Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman's brother.

pleasant; arrived within two or three miles of the falls at

4 o'clock next morning and landed.

Wednesday 24th. Dropped down to the falls and after waiting several hours took a pilot and started through; an exceedingly heavy rain and thick fog; the falls were much rougher than I had supposed; got over safe but wet to the skin. In consequence of the roof having leaked the interior of the boat was very wet and the females and children in a disagreeable condition. Concluded to stop at New Albany for the night; went ashore and after informing Mr. N. Scribner who my wife was, received an invitation to put up at his house i.e. Mr. Haven, myself and our families; hospitably entertained.

Our run today was four miles only.

Thursday 25th Christmas. Left the hospitable roof of Mr. Scribner after Mrs. L. had visited Mrs. Elizabeth Scribner and her mother and pushed off at 12 o'clock noon. New Albany is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Ohio in Indiana and in my opinion bids fair to become a place of great business. Enterprise is characteristic of the proprietors and many lots have been sold. There are at present 90 families Mr. N. Scribner informed me in the place: some good frame houses a number of log dwellings an elegant brick house and store owned by Mr. Paxson, late of the house of Lloyd, Smith and Paxson of Philadelphia and a steam mill driving two saws and one run of stones, two steamboats on the stocks and three more are to be shortly put up. A ferry having a great deal of business is established here. We ran by ten o'clock P.M. to Otter Creek, 30 miles.

Friday 26th. The weather yesterday and today cloudy and threatening rain but warm and not unpleasant for the season. We continued running without intermission excepting a few minutes to get wood and, at about 6 o'clock p.m. passed Flint Island from Otter Creek, 82

miles. Still progressing; water pretty high.

^{1&#}x27;'It is worth a voyage down the Ohio to pass the rapids. They are two miles in length, with a descent of twenty-two feet and a half. . . The current is said to have a velocity of thirteen miles an hour, which is of course increased or diminished by high or low water.'' Letters from the West, 184, by Judge Hall. London, 1828.

Saturday 27th. The water for the most part today seems sluggish and we move slow. Mr. John Kellogg our Captain killed a wild turkey this morning, for the first and we had an excellent roast for dinner. Our run from 6 o'clock last evening to ten tonight to Yellow Banks is 60 miles.

Sunday 28th. Continued running all night and by 5 in the evening stopped at Red Bank Henderson having made

70 miles; started at 11 at night.

Monday 29th. Wet and disagreeable day after a very foggy night. We run to a little below Highland Creek from Red Bank, say 45 miles. Put in on account of the darkness of the night until the moon rises. At this mo-

ment 12 o'clock the wind blows hard against us.

Tuesday 30th. Arrived in the forenoon at Shawnee-town to where it was our intention to take the land for St. Louis but am informed that the roads are impassable. We therefore are compelled to wait until the opening spring shall enable us to take the water. Got a room at Mrs. Cox's at the end of the town.

Wednesday 31st. Am told that there is a probability of my getting a hack and determined to try. Finished taking out Mr. H.'s things and my own from the boat.

January 1st 1818. Thursday. Applied to Dr. Oldham about a school and received encouragement; but in the afternoon he told me that another person was making application. After having waited in expectation of procuring a school for a week, I at length received information that no room can be procured, I am therefore compelled to give it up. Dr. Oldham however, whose conduct was very kind directed me to John Caldwell, Esq. Receiver of the Public Monies who immediately employed me to journalize at 31½ cents per page. I average six pages per diem. On Thursday Mr. Haven concludes to start through in consequence of frost and I lost Friday and Saturday in getting ready. Set off on Sunday morning Jan. 18 went two miles got into a slough and then came back again.

Monday Jan. 19th. Went back to the office.

Friday Feb. 6th. Set out for St. Louis without Mr. Haven, etc, but with a heavy apprehensive heart. Runners under the wheels; got a small distance with them

when one of them split and I was obliged to take them off; the wagon then ran easier; crossed the Saline the second time after dark and got to the town. Good bed.

kind treatment; fourteen miles.

Saturday 7th. Horse lame this morning from the ice cutting his foot yesterday; had to stop to have my single-tree mended; detained some time; started at ten o'clock and, after having been let down by the fore wheel coming off three or four times, at length lashed it and thus got to John Brown's; thirteen miles; a very open cabin; staid all night and were kindly treated.

Sunday 8th. Got up at four o'clock; breakfasted by candle light for an early start; had to go back three miles on foot for my tar-pot; started at ten o'clock as usual and arrived early at Mr. McCreery's; 16 miles very kind

and attentive.

Monday 9th. Started a little after sunrise; at nine o'clock came to a smith's shop and had my wheel fixed after sliding it 23 miles; came to 1½ miles beyond Big

Muddy; heavy traveling; 171/2 miles.

Tuesday, 10th. Set out early; had to pass Jackson's at Little Muddy without the privilege of having Mrs. L. and babe go in and warm, on account of the measles and whooping cough that were in the family, consequently they had to ride 22 miles to Mrs. Coxe's where we put up.

Wednesday 11th. After having driven through a heavy road all day we applied for lodging at a miserable cabin and were about to stay but found that the whooping cough was here also. No house where we could stay within 7 miles and the sun about setting, road through woods and not very plain. In this dilemma it pleased Providence to send us help. An old man was at this house and guided us to his home, which was on the Turkey Hill road about a mile out of the way. In his little cabin we found rest, a good bed, placed on a frame composed of four forked sticks placed perpendicularly and four sticks longitudinally resting on the forks, boards split served for a sacking bottom. Our table was a trunk, etc, etc. 26 miles today.

Thursday 12th. Was put into our road by our kind host and pursued our journey; about noon entered Kaskaskia, a very old looking place apparently in a state of

dilapidation. After baiting the horse, pursued our journey; arrived at the village of Prairie du Rocher where we put up at the house of Major Le Compte, a French gentle-

man very intelligent and polite; 27 miles.

Friday 13th. Set out about sunrise and soon began to climb a steep and rugged hill; the snow deep and difficult. After dragging on five tedious hours we found a house, the first in 12 miles, where we refreshed our horse and selves. A remarkable subterranean stream from which by means of a chain the family procured excellent water is at this house.

Kept on through a heavy storm of snow and sleet alternately for 1 mile further and stopped with Judge Lemen,

an old settler; snowing very hard; 19 miles.

Saturday 14th. Too cold and stormy to travel; staid with our hospitable old host and hostess, not thinking it best to travel.

Sunday 15th. Clear but intensely cold. I went to meeting with Judge Leman and returned to tarry till

Monday.

Monday 16th. After having been hospitably and gratuitously entertained by the worthy Mr. Lemen and his good old companion two days, we again made an essay on our journey; started at ten o'clock and got to the bot-

tom region 14 miles.

Tuesday 17th. Early as the cold would permit and as soon as the cheering influence of the sun was felt by the inhabitants of this American Bottom we were again traveling making our way towards St. Louis. The day was calm and serene the air pure, elastic and bracing. Our hearts bounded with hope and expectation. Long had we been waiting to meet a brother and friend. Many a tedious and weary mile had we trode. Anxiety had pervaded our bosoms. Dread of difficulty and danger had hung over us and often did our aching hearts almost regret that we had left the dear friends in the rugged and peaceful hills of Lumberland; but now, when we confidently looked forward to the enjoyment of meeting those friends for whose sake we had thus traveled 1500 miles and expected in a few short hours to embrace, how different the situation—how elastic our minds—how with an uncommon activity and force did our blood spring from the fountains and rush thro the various channels! At length about 10 o'clock the Father of Waters, the noble Mississippi opened on our view—the town of St. Louis appeared only separated from us by the grand stream. In a few minutes we hoped to tread the soil of Missouri Territory. The boat lands, we embark, put off and shortly after are on the eastern side of an island which obstructed our view of the western landing place. Turning the Island we see on the shore a number of men apparently waiting and hope tells that one among the number is my anxiously waiting brother. Soon it is put beyond a doubt, his face is visible. boat touches the shore—we meet! O! how were my feelings wrought up at this moment! Our hands were locked almost in silence, but the emotions of our hearts were visible in our countenances. May He who has brought us through all the dangers of this long journey still protect me not only from personal and temporal dangers but from the rocks of vice or the quicksands of forgetfulness! May He guide my footsteps according to the dictates of His holy will and bring us all to the enjoyment of Himself, here and hereafter! To Him be praise and humble thanksgiving for evermore. Amen.

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Mrs. Thomas Lippincott to Isaac Swift, Ravenna, Ohio.

St Louis April 2nd 1818

Ever dear brother

It is a long time since I have written to you, but O my brother I have not forgotten you, nor is my affection at all diminishing can I cease to love you, O no! whilst I have a being I shall ever bear you on my heart with sweet but painful remembrance. When last we parted I felt—somehow that it was to be a long separation; but I could not tell why my feelings were more exquisite than usual for me, and I felt myself wretched for a while, my dear partner did all in his power to comfort me and I soon regained my spirits, but how dear are my brothers and sisters to me, I find that I can never enjoy myself without their society, Although I am separated from you at pres-

ent, yet I indulge the idea that we shall meet again, that you will visit me at this place if you have no family perhaps it will suit you to reside here, land is very cheap and good, both in Missouri and Illinois territory two-dollars per acre; we live in town, but hope to be able to purchase land after a while, this place contains about two thousand five hundred inhabitants half Americans it is a dissipated disagreeable place to me—there is a small society of Presbyterians here but no church erected, the people are mostly Roman Catholics, We have been here only a few weeks, were detained by ice in the river then by badnefs of the roads, our journey was long and tedious, but we were blest with health and supported in a manner beyond my expectations; it is more than five months since we started on our journey but I have not heard from our friends but once although I have written severall times. We have not received any money from you, we wish you to write immediately and let us know whether you have sent it or no we wrote to you upon the subject when we were shut up by ice we expected for the winter—If you have not sent it you need not trouble yourself any further at present, as we are not in immediate want, Mr Lippincott is doing very well as to businefs, but I hope we shall do better after a while—do write soon my dear brother for you know not how anxious I am to hear from you—do not indulge the idea that marrying has caused me to forget you (this is the common idea but so long as I can recollect that one fond Mother nursed us both, so long shall I love and long to be where I can enjoy your society. I believe that I am as happy in a companion as most people, and am blest With a dear little daughter. vet my affection for you is undiminished—Let us remember that this world is not our abiding place, let us seek more strongly an inheritance in the world to come: let us seek an interest in Christ the Saviour, without which we can never enter into the kingdom of heaven Let us frequently bring to mind the advice of our dear departed Mother, so to live that we may all meet in that world where there is no sin nor sorrow the trials which we are called to pass through in this life should serve to wean us from the world, we should not be immoderate in our desires for any earthly good for all things beneath

the sun shall fade and vanish away, but we are permitted to love each other, but not with a selfish love [torn] pure love is what will make the saints happy in heaven [torn] My dear child cries and I cannot write more at present [torn] we are at Samuel Lippincotts but expect to go to house keeping next week Your most affectionate sister Patty Lippincott

Isaac Swift

Dear Brother -

I comply no lefs with my own inclination than the request of my excellent companion, in finishing the letter which she has begun. The idea of a bare possibility of your coming to this place excites feelings of a very exquisite nature. And I am convinced that could you see this country, and become acquainted with the manner in which money can be made—or rather property acquired—vou would need no urging to close your busine's in Ohio and come immediately to this country. The soil is perhaps as good as any in the world - You smile and so did I, on reading what I conceived the extravagant accounts of this - often termed "Terrestrial Paradise''—But really I am convinced that although such were my opinions, yet "the half was not told me". The facility with which the land can be brought into cultivation—the great abundance it yields and the ease in finding market—all conduce in a preeminent degree to render this [torn] union peculiarly desirable. In the Illinois land, of the best quality is two dollars pr acre— That is the U. S. have their land at that rate—payable in four instalments—One fourth on making the entry— 1/4 in 2 years 1/4 in 3 and the remainder in 4 years—But the pay-ment of the first instalment secures the land for 5 years from the date of purchase. In this Territory land can be purchased on nearly or quite as good terms and the land office will shortly be opened on the same terms as in Ills. And more chances of Speculation. St Charles a thriving village on the Mifsouri — 20 miles from this - I am told there is no Physician - Many other situations might be found where you could get at once into businefs. Even here I have no doubt you could do well. I am engaged with Col. R. Carton a Lawyer late a delegate to Congress—I have \$50 per month certain

and the right of choosing to take half the profits of [a] conveyancing & land office if it should be more profitable which is rather more than probable—I wish you would come—I intend urging M^r Crifsey with all my power—He could (if his health permitted)—make a fortune in a short time. If I do not get into something better than my present businefs—I shall be very much disappointed—I came without letters and consequently cannot expect to get immediately into the best businefs—

Saturday evening 4th Ap¹. Since writing the above I have been recommended to the Acting Governor as Notary Public & Justice of the Peace, which together will (if I get them which is considered pretty sure), afford

some perquisites—

Patty wishes me to ask you where brother Adoniram is?—I should like to have a letter from him—And if he feels inclined to become acquainted with me he has only

to write—I shall punctually answer him—

Direct to me at St Louis Missouri Territory—and tell him to do so. I am anxious to hear whether you sent a letter with or without money—for I fear if you have it has miscarried Pray write immediately. I intend as soon as possible to enter land—It is a sure way of receiving a living.

Sincerely your affectionate brother
Thos. Lippincott

Mr. Lippincott did not remain long in St. Louis but moved to a malarial little village named Milton, four miles from what is now Alton, but which was then unbroken prairie and woods. There were two saw-mills, a flour-mill and a distillery and there he opened a store in November, 1818.

240

An old resident of Exeter described a visit to Mrs. Joseph Gilman at Philadelphia in a letter, dated January 13, 1852, which Winthrop S. Gilman copied into one of his Common-place Books, without giving any clue to its authorship. The friend wrote:

"There I saw her for the last time. She was an old lady, bowed by afflictions more than by years, but still retained her lovely expression and beautiful eyes. She told me that she had learned to milk the cow and would sit with her milk pail and looking up to heaven say, 'Are these the stars and moon I used to see in Exeter?' and sob and cry as a child and then wipe her tears and appear before her husband as cheerful as if she had nothing to give her pain. She told me she once came to New England as far as Providence, but she could not come to Exeter—it was more than she could bear.'

Mrs. Joseph Gilman's remark to her old friend seems to refer to her journey taken in October, 1818, which included a visit to Boston, one to her nephew Thomas Povnton Ives, at Providence, and a few days in New York. Her granddaughter, Eliza, accompanied her and Chandler R. Gilman evidently came down from Andover to meet his grandmother in Providence. Mrs. Gilman was then seventy-three. The occasion of the next letter was the birth of Mrs. Miller's eldest son who only lived a few months. In it we have the first mention of a love affair between Eliza Gilman and William Fitz Winthrop Sargent, the elder of Governor Sargent's two sons. Mr. GILMAN did not approve of the match. The younger brother was George Washington Sargent, who spent the last years of his life at his father's old home, Gloster Place, Natchez, and was killed there in the War of the Secession by some marauding soldiers. The Mrs. Murray mentioned was Judith Sargent, sister of the governor, whose husband, the Rev. John Murray, was a Universalist minister of Boston. Mrs. Murray died in Natchez in 1820.

Mrs. Joseph Gilman to Mrs. John S. Miller, Lebanon, Miss.¹

My dear Rebecca I have this moment received yours, ¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

dated Octo. 7th just as I was in act of writing to the dear Governour Sargent and his excellent lady to express my gratitude for their paternal kindness to you, and likewise thanking them for permitting their son Washington to make us a visit, who is one of the most interesting young persons I have ever seen except his Brother. I was very desirous he should accompany us to Philadela as I was afraid the journey would be injurious to his health if defered until winter. I consulted Mrs. Murray, whose opinion coincided with mine; we sat out in the stage and after a very pleasant ride in company with your Uncle Chandler and his lady who admired our young friend and paid great attention to him, on our arrival at Providence I introduced him to Mr. Ives and his family with feelings of pride and pleasure, they were all charmed with his fine person and preposesing manners, Mr. Ives was enchanted with him always conversing with him and admiring his intelligence and often saying he was surprised at his general information, as to myself I was continualy thinking how much pleasure it would give his dear parents to see and hear him and to observe the attention that was paid him, his elegant and fascinating powers with the ladies must be left for Eliza's pen, as the stuning contents of your letter incapacitates me for anything like pleasantry, after spending a couple of weeks in this agreeable society where Mr. Washington and Miss Eliza partook or rather joined in all the amusements of the commencement week, we parted with the inhabitants of this hospitable Mansion with regret and proceeded to N York, Mr. Washington was very much disapointed at not seeing his brother at Providence, he had heard he would certainly be there at commencement, he consoled himself however with the idea of making him a visit on his return. I forgot to mention my enquiring after Mr. William of his Aunt Murry, but she had not heard anything from him since his first arrival at Litchfield, we went in a pacquet to N York and landed at the City hotel about 10 o'clock in the morn. Washington walked out but soon returned with his eyes full of tears produced by joy; he had met his dear William and he would soon be in to see us, in a few minutes he came in, he ap-

peared pleased at seeing us, said he had heard of our being at Providence and had enquired for us, on the arrival of every steamboat. He had heard Washington was with us and had be very anxious to see him, the affectionate interview of the Brothers in our room gave me indiscribable pleasure, his visit was short as he had an engagement with some gentlemen of the bar at Counsellor Samsons, he called in the evening and wished Miss Eliza to accept a ticket for the theatre which she politely declined of course—he appeared the perfect gentleman both in manners and deportment, the next morning he came early to inform us of his having arranged his affairs so as to take a seat with us in the stage as he had an idea of taking his passage from Philadela, we left N York at 11 o'clock and arrived at Trenton at eight where we passed the night, left there at an early hour and arrived at Philadela at ten. Washington came directly to our house where he was received with a hearty welcome, Mr. William had engaged to meet some southern gentlemen at Washington Hall as I was informed by Mr. Bancroft, I afterwards urged him to come and stay with us but he declined saving he was fearful of offending his young friend. he however told me it would give him the greatest pleasure if he were not preengaged, he was here daily, dined with us, and visited us in the morning, afternoon and evening, was always correct and agreeable, just the same as when he was here with his parents, and I can truly say that I never saw anything like dissapation in the slightest degree; at the same time I doubt not that he was gay and extravagant with his young companions, it his kind of company that makes him so, on this account I hope he will not tarry at Orleans, but be persuaded to return here in the Spring and read law with one of our most eminent professional men, if so, I think he would make a shining figure at the bar, [torn] the course I think he may easily be induced to pursue, as he has a great regard and veneration for his father; always appeared delighted when he heard him spoken of with affection and respect; but he would soon be driven into rebellion by such a man as Mr. A——ll. How William conducted after he returned to N York, I cannot tell, as I have not

heard a word to his disadvantage, if he had behaved improperly I think I should have been made acquainted with it, I received a letter from Washington dated at N York the day his brother sailed for Orleans, he mentioned W with great tenderness, and on his arrival at Cambridge he wrote me again, informing me of the pleasure he experienced on returning to his studies and saving he should attend to his exercises with pleasure and assiduity he is a very fine boy, wants nothing but parental advice to make him everything they can wish. I esteem William very highly and was much pleased with his observations and remarks on the journey—he will always be respected for his talents and good sense, notwithstanding he has been caluminated both by enemies and injuditious friends—If William should return here next Spring to pursue his studies nothing shall be wanting on our part to render his situation pleasant, agreeable, both on his own account and that of his excellent parents, to whom we feel under the greatest obligations— Your father and mother talk of making a visit to yourself and Gov Sargent's family this winter, I most ardently wish we could all be settled near each other, either there or here. Eliza says in order to have the enjoyment complete, we must all be in one large house.

I do violence to my own feelings, my dear child, in not filing a sheet on the subject of yourself and darling babe, but the next time Eliza writes I shall add a long post-script—Give much love to Mr. Miller and to every member of the Gov. family.—I wish you could make it convenient to return next Spring with your parents, if the health of the Gov. would permit him and Mrs. S, to join your party how delighted we should be—It would be a great advantage to their sons and a comfort to themselves to be so near them. Please to read this letter to

Mrs. Sargent -

and accept, my dear Rebecca, the best wishes of your
Affectionate Grandmama, R. Gilman
Pray write me immediately on receipt of this letter as

Pray write me immediately on receipt of this letter as I shall be anxious in the extreme to learn the determinations of our friends.

Mrs. Joseph Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.

Philadelphia Novem^b 9th [1818]

By taking palsage in the packet instead of the steam Boat I lost the oppertunity of conversing with you before your departure for Andover, which was a difsapointment and grief to me, as I had many things to communicate both in French & english wich I flattere'd myself would have been pleaseing and profitable, the painful sensation I experienced when your stage passed the one I was in, and I saw the last wave of your hat is not to be decribed. I hope however my dear Chandler if we are not to meet again in time, we shall be permitted to spend an eternity together where we shall enjoy the society of each other without fear of seperation. Your dear mother has come to a sudden resolution with regard to her western journey the time fix'd for setting out was next week, but she has just heard Mr Lamson is going on wednsday and she is determined to accompany him, the Idea of her leaveing us and for so longe a time too affects me in such a manner that I can scarsly hold my pen, this must excuse the blundering manner in which this is written. I was loath to mifs so good an oppetunity of commencing a correspondence which I should be glad to keep up in your mothers absence, do my dear child communicate your wants to me and depend upon it your requisitions will be chearfully complied with. we are likewise in great trouble about Robert Hale, as we have reason to fear he was in Boston at the time of the late dreadful fire and intended to put up at the Exchange, sympathise with me my dear Chandler and believe me

to be your very affectionate, Grandmother R Gilman Burn this as soon as you have read it, that the imbecility of your Gr parent may not be seen by any. Doctor Dor-

sey is dangerous[ly] ill of a fever

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

A few sheets sewed together contain this short diary of Mrs. Joseph Gilman. Her visit to Providence came between the first and second entry and could not have occupied more than a month. So little remains of her writing that we treasure even these disconnected entries.

Tuesday October 12th Cousin Bancroft left here for Providence it will be advantagous to him but we feel the loss of his company much 13 laying down our winter Carpets with what pleasure should we do these things if we had any prospect of seeing the dear head of the family soon. have reason to fear from recent accounts that he will be detained months longer if not all winter.

1818 November the 12th Thursday this day my Daughter began her journey for the western country, the house appear'd desolate after her departure & the gloom was increased at 1 o'clock by hearing of the decease of our

valuable citizen Dr John Syng

14 the family are all well, and I have the pleasure to hear that Old Mrs. Ammidon is better hopes are entertained of her recovery, but I am very anxious with regard to Robert, not having heard from him since he left providence for Andover.

after tiring myself with sewing for the family, I took up the port Folio and was much pleas^d by reading D^r Johnsons preface to the Evangelical history of Jesus Christ harmonized explained & illustrated, it is not included in the edition by Murphy which we own, may be found in the P F for Novem^r 1818 N° 215. likewise an extract from Schlegel on the character of Christianyty and Wellwood on Jewish and Christian Revelation.

15 Sunday pain in my face obliged to keep house.Mr Brown arrived from providence attend^d divine service at arch C with Mr Ammidon & Joseph & Benj^a. the remains of our exellent Dr Dorsey interred this day.

16 letter from Chandl.

17 Mr Dillingham made us a morn^g visit gave Eliz & Jane¹ much good advice little boys well & at school.

¹ Jane Robbins, daughter of Isaac and Mary (Howell) Robbins, of Alexandria, Va.

Friday May th 19 Cloudy morn the Sun shown for a few minutes between 7 & 8 o'c, at 10 it began to growe darker & increas'd till 12 when we were obliged to light a candle dined at 1 ock by candle light. between 3 & 4 began to grow lighter

the darkest evening I ever saw, like the Egiptan darkness tangable. 11. ock as light as usual in foul weather.

Novem^b 11th 1819 Mrs Gilman Rece^d a letter from my

dear Son dated Marietta the contents . .

13 Cousins Robert Ives and Thomas Bancroft with Mr John Brown set out for the western country, R H G accompanyed them as far as the Buck tavern. Collⁿ Barber call'd to say he should set out to morrow morn^g for Marietta spent a very pleasant evening with him, conversing about my dear son and others in that country

15 Our dear little Boys lost their Excellent Master, Mr Foriris who deaced last evening they were much affected

and think thier lofs irrepareable.

[Evidently written some time later]

I have but little Relief from the most painful anxieties.

¹ Mr. Ferris. This entry properly comes after the letters of March 2, 1819.





A Family History in Letters and Documents



A Family History in Letters and Documents

1667-1837

CONCERNING THE FOREFATHERS OF
WINTHROP SARGENT GILMAN
AND HIS WIFE
ABIA SWIFT LIPPINCOTT

EDITED WITH NOTES BY THEIR DAUGHTER MRS. CHARLES P. NOYES

VOLUME II



PRIVATELY PRINTED ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA NINETEEN NINETEEN

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A FAMILY HISTORY IN LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Marietta, Ohio.¹

Lebanon, Dec. 3rd, 1818

My dear Mama:

I wrote you a long letter a few days since, and directed to Philadelphia, but in coming through Washington I received a letter from Eliza wherein she gives me the joyful intelligence that you were to leave there in ten days for Marietta to accompany Papa to Natches. We shed tears of joy on reading her letter, for in our present situation what could be so comforting as to have our parents with us. All society of mere acquaintances is rather painful to us than otherwise but you will sympathize and console us. My dear Mother, we were a few weeks ago, anticipating with what pride and pleasure we should present to you and Papa our dear little darling son.

But it has pleased Heaven to blast our hopes and to take him from us. The stroke is severe for though he was so young, yet he was so interesting, so engaging, such an uncommon child; that he had wound himself around our hearts. We were bound up in him. Oh Mama I can never give you an idea of what a sweet little creature he was, but had you seen him if he had given you some of the sweet looks that he did us you would have thought of him as we do. Never, O never, can we forget those looks but Heaven knows what is best for us, and he is taken from us to teach us not to place our hopes on this life but to lay up our treasure in Heaven. The Lord gave, and Oh, the Lord hath taken away. I pray Heaven that we may have great reason to add "Blefsed be the name of the Lord." My dear baby is released from his sufferings and is now

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

rejoicing in the presence of his God and this consideration sometimes makes me feel so resigned that I would not wish to recall him. What a comforting assurance is that of our blessed Saviour's; that "In Heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in Heaven." Our little boy's days were few and full of trouble. A day or two before I left Gloster Place the first time with him I perceived two or three red spots on his legs where children are apt to be chafed, I showed them to old Suke, my nurse, who told me it was nothing but chafe. After my return home they spread on his little hands and face. We were told it was the thrush but Dr. Provan came out to see him and pronounced it a species of Erysypulus, told us not to be alarmed; there was not the least danger; to wash him with water and give him frequent doses of megnesia. We followed his directions for about three weeks, during which time he looked well and bright and had a fine appetite but the inflamation increased, the spots superated and he suffered so much from soreness that Mr. Miller wrote his situation again to the Doctor, who returned for answer that there was nothing at all alarming but he would send a wash for him which would more speedily heal him. This was on the 20th of November, the wash healed over the sore places very soon and he appeared getting better until the night of the 22nd, (Sunday), when he did not sleep well. In the morning I arose and left him in bed, he slept until eleven o'clock, when I took him up to wash and dress him but immediately perceived a change in him. His eyes looked sick and he did not cry, as usual. I sent for Mr. Miller who was out on the plantation, he came, had the horse hitched to the gig, gave a dose of c. oil and we set out immediately for our friends, Mr. & Mrs. Sargent's, sent for the Doctor who came in the evening, examined the child, said there was nothing in the "least alarming;" He appeared just as he expected and wished" and directed me to give him another dose of easter oil. (His bowels were something disordered), and continue the wash. We felt relieved, he slept well, sucked well, and in the morning appeared better, but he lost flesh very fast and seemed in constant pain in his bowels, and did not [torn] strong and loud as formerly. The Doctor called at 12





Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman (Hannah Robbins)

From a miniature on ivory, executed in Philadelphia, owned by her granddaughter, Mrs. Charles P. Noyes (Emily H. Gilman), of St. Paul, Minn.

o'clock and gave him a dose of calomel which did not have its effect. That night [torn] tolerably well, toward morning sucked voraciously [torn] in great pain to catch hold of the breast and such as [torn] possible as if he thought that would give him ease and I suppose such was the case then. When I arose we thought him so much better and the Doctor's assurances had so lulled our fears that Mr. Miller returned to Lebanon after breakfast as he had pressing business, but soon I saw a change for the worse. He seemed in great pain and would look in my face so wildly and with such an eager, supplicating expression in his eyes as if to say "Maa, do relieve me". I sent for the Doctor, he came at three, I was weeping over my child, he told me not to distress myself; that there was not one dangerous symptom. "But I cant keep him warm, his eyes look sick and he is losing flesh". said I. "O he has flesh enuf, his eyes are very well, and he is doing very well", said he and he snapped his fingers and chirped to him. The little darling turned his sweet eyes on the Doctor, who told me to see how he took notice! I was compelled to believe him, he ordered me to give him a dose of castor oil and took leave. I mixed it and gave it to Suke to administer as I was called to dinner, after which I went up. She told me he had puked since she gave him the oil. Mrs. S. came up and I mentioned it to her and told her I perceived a difficulty in his breathing. She told me perhaps he had phlegm on his stomach, I put him to the breast and he drew a little but his little mouth felt cold. The room, perhaps, is too cold, thought I and wrapped his blanket closer around him. Then as he appeared dosing I laid on the bed with him on a pillow on my arm, I lay with him about an hour when Suke came up. went down again and told Mrs. S. she was sure the child was dying. Mrs. S. told her to take him from me and not tell me. She took him from my unconscious arms and before she reached her chair his little spirit took its flight to the bosom of his Saviour! I rose and turning to Suke asked how he was, she looked smiling at me and told me my baby was dead! It was so unexpected I could not believe her, I flew to her, she tried to push me away but I put my cheek to his and it was cold. Think what a shock to me when the Doctor had just assured me he was

in no danger, and what a shock to his poor father, who was absent. He was sent for, arrived the next morning, and in the P.M. his dear remains were interred in Mr. S's willow-yard, attended by Mr. Thompson, Mr. F.S. a clergyman. He is happy now and we endeavor to be resigned.

Write to me dear Ma'a. When may we expect you?

Mr. M joins me in love to dear Pa'a and yourself.

Your Rebecca

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.

Marietta, Dec^r 5th Saturday morn^g 1818 I wrote you, my dear son, Just before Heft Phila and told you I would write again on my arrival at this place. [1] will now give you a little account [of our] Journey. [I] left Philadelphia on the morning of [the 12th] of Nov^r, in company with M^r Lamson of Exeter N.H. M^r Allen of Providence R.I. and Mr Coates of Phila. A very cold morning, and we rode two hours before day, which made it very uncomfortable. Nothing very particular occurd and we rode that day 93 mi. Friday 13th a fine pleasant morning — we found this Mr Allen a very Jovial traveler, and one of the best singers I ever heard. He was born in Providence—educated at Brown University and well acquainted with Benjⁿ and Thomas.¹ This day we took the stage Gov Finley, who rode with us all day. I was much disappointed in him. I expected to see a Gentleman of polish manners and politeness—but he appears like a clever honest farmer. The driver took in his mother, to ride 6 miles with us — she was a low-bred dutch-woman. The Goy^r enter^d into conversation with her and seem^d as if he had got among his own class. We arrived in Chambersburgh 2 at six o'clock, very much fatigued.

¹ Moses Brown Ives and his younger brother Robert H. Ives, Thomas P. Bancroft and Benj. Ives Gilman, Jr., were all in Brown University about the same time. Moses graduated in 1812, Benjamin in 1813, and the two younger cousins in 1816.

² The route described is the one now taken by tourists who motor from Philadelphia to Pittsburg via Gettysburg.

When we sat down to supper M^r Allen who is very amusing said he was so tir^d, he could not eat unless some of the family, (as he was pleas^d to call us) would open his mouth for him, and work his Jaws. He however made

out to eat a good supper.

At this house (Mr Linsev's) we saw a young gentleman from Pittsburgh, who told us that the Ohio river was lower that ever known before. That a number of merchants were there, waiting for the river to rise, and at that time there were goods there to the amount of three million dollars, waiting [for] water to descend the river. A poor prospect, thought I, for us. We take in passengers every day enough to fill the stage. Mr Allen keeps us from disponding by his wittisisms and his singing. We crofsd the north mountain this day, and arrive in Connelstown at 5 o'clock. Sunday 15th Took our seat in the stage this morng at 4 o'clock. One of the most delightful mornings I ever saw. The moon shone in the greatest splendor and the air was mild as may. But the roads were dreadful. We had a very unpleasant ride over sidling hill. We have bounded from rock to rock, so that my bones were sore. Just after we crofs^d the hill—the driver took up a poor run-away negro, bound him with cords, and put him into the Stage, for Bedford Jail. This negro was one of the most awful profane wretches I ever saw. Can there be a worse hell than to be confined forever with such company. What a companion for this blefsed day, the sabbath of the Lord. Being very intemperate - 'twas impossible to stop his tongue. Here we parted with our Philadelphia companion—Mr Coates. From his conversation, I think he must be a lawyer. He tells me he knows Gilman & Ammidon. He was very [torn] is a very pleasant, mild unafsuming man. He [torn] when we parted and wish us an agreeable Jour [ney. Wel rose at four—left Bedford—crofsed the alegany Mt[torn] over the worst road I ever saw. Tuesday 17th H[torn] Greenburgh 46 miles. The turnpikes are shock [torn] with flint stone and left in large pieces [torn] felt as if my bones were dislocated. In add[torn] able situation the driver, who is the worst of [torn] two men, who were so intoxicated they could h [torn] profane all description. Wednesday resume [torn] and rode 35 miles to Pittsburgh. The town is as [torn] goods as it can possibly be. The house is over[flowing] But I have a little chamber to myself, & can now [torn] with gratitude to Heaven. Heitherto the Lord hath [torn] brought me. Blefsed be his holy name. May [1] never forget the goodness of the Lord to me & mine [torn] Mr Lamson has been as kind & attentive to me as [torn] We found it impossible to descend the river & we [took] the stage for Wheeling where we arrived the next day, and found a family boat going to Marietta who took us in and after eight days on the river we arrived at this place in safety. Surely goodness and mercy hath followed me all my days. Your dear Pa'a had been watching the river, many days and had Just given me up for that night, crofsd the river & set down at home, writing, when I open the door. We keep in our own house day and night, and at meal times are sent for at Mr Stones whom you know, live in your Grandma'as house. Our house at present [is] unoccupied by any but ourselves. I have been very particular, my dear son, because I thought it would be agreeable to you. I have also written to Joseph an account of my Journey &e Your Pa'a last eveg recd your letter of Nov. Poor Dr Dorsey was sick when I left home — but 'twas thought was on the recovery. I was shock beyond discription, when I arrived here, to find he was gone forever. O may it be blefst for the salvation of thoughtlefs souls in that city. Write as soon as convenient my dr

child to your ever affecte mother HG

PS [torn] in your next tell me if you have got [torn] a pladd cloak. If you have not—you better take the [torn] stage on some saturday & go to your uncle Peter, and get money to purchase it & for your quarter bills he told your Pa'a he would pay the money to you You better get it in small portions and keep an exact account. Your dear Pa'a sends a great deal of love. We Just rec^d a letter from Benjⁿ dated 27 Nov all well. HG

Paid 25
Mr Chandler R. Gilman
Student at Phillips Academy
Andover
Mafsachusetts.—

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Joseph Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Massachusetts.

Philadelphia December 11th 1818

My Dear Brother

Altho it is but a day or two since we put into the Office a letter from your Sister Eliza for you, yet, not having had the pleasure of receiving one of your letters for a very long time, I have, naturally, for some time, been thinking what could be the reason of your long silence, and in course of my cogitations, have referred to your former letters; two of which, viz Oct. 20th & 25th, to my great regret, I find unanswered, and this is the reason of your having another epistle so soon after your Sisters letter. I am anxious, with all possible speed, to remove from myself every shade of blame for your not writing. Even my negligence, however, in the two instances, above mentioned, will by no means clear you; as I am informed, at the house, you have, for weeks, been indebted to Grandmama, Eliza, Arthur and Winthrop, for letters sent by Mr Warren; by whose politeness I received yours of 20th October. Mr Warren paid us a very pleasant, but very short visit, and has, no doubt, long since, given you his thoughts of Philadelphia.

We have letters from Papa very often, but they are all business letters. We always know by them, however, that Mama and Papa are both well, and enjoying themselves highly. Our last letter from Papa was dated Dec. 4th and received yesterday. You, I presume, write to Mama, and hear from her occasionally. She has written us but one letter since she has been at Marietta. I hope you have written to Rebecca. We have not heard from her for a long time. You ask, in your letter by M^r Warren, of the health of M^r A. Hodgedon. I am happy to say he has entirely recovered. Miss Jane and the Doctor

remain "in statu quo."

I perceive, with pleasure, that you have an old classmate of mine, M^r Newhall, as one of your instructors. He was always very highly esteemed as a Scholar, at Cambridge University, and as an amiable Man. As a Scholar, he ranked very high in our Class. Since my last letter from you, you have had the pleasure of a visit from Robert, he tarried so short time, however, that you don't give him great credit, I suppose. You were also honoured with a call from the young Gov' as we call him—M' Washington Sargent—Pray how think you of the eccentrick genius? Be careful what you say tho'—unless it be praise—he is a Favourite of Miss Eliza's.

M^r Ammidon is desirous to write you, and will improve the first leisure moment. We were much pleased with your account of studies, and sincerely trust that you pursue them with industry, and ardour. It is a point of the very first importance gained in your favour, that you have obtained so excellent a Chum. I hope your only ambition will be, to render your room so distinguished, that M^r Adams may always say to his friends—"There live two of my best Scholars."

You will please write us often—but take the time,

from the hours you had devoted to sleep.

Since your settlement at Andover, I have forwarded you a Philadelphia paper, at least, once a week. Your Postmaster, doubtless, will have something to say about the postage. As it will be very inconvenient for you to be paying a cent & a half, the regular postage, on receipt of each paper, you may pay him in advance for a paper to come once a week. The postage as above, will be one & a half cents each paper, and calculating 13 weeks to the quarter, you will pay him 191/2 say 20 cents, in advance, each quarter and I will be certain to send you, as heretofore, one paper every week. By your papers you have learnt the aweful intelligence of the death of Dr Dorsey. Only two weeks before his death, Doct Dorsey was at our Church, and apparently, the most healthy, pleasant, and happy countenance of the whole Congregation. Dr Dorsey's Family, and the Family of Mr Ralston were overwhelmed with grief inexpressable.

A fortnight previous to his death, I recollect distinctly, on Sabbath day, D^r Dorsey was called out of meeting about the middle of sermon; you well recollect his grace, and beautiful expression—so I saw him trip from his Pew, to the door—little thinking that, that was the last time he would ever pass those sacred walls,—the last

time I should ever see the interesting Man. But true it

is—he is dead!

You have been advised that your cousin Jane, of Alexandria, is with us. She goes to M^r Jaudon's School—and sends her love to You. You would do well, when you have a leisure moment, to write her a letter—but no—remember my first advice—never write, unless when you feel disposed to sacrifice a few moments sleep, to the happiness, and the pleasure of your friends.

I could willingly fill this page but the mail is closing

and I must away.

Your affectionate Brother Joseph Gilman

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.

Lebanon January 1819.

My dear Brother,

I have often reproached myself for not answering your first letter - once I began to write to you, but something occurr'd to prevent my finishing my letter until it was of too old a date to send. I do not now however, regret so much that I have delay'd it, as I think a letter from me now you are away from home will be more acceptable. I recollect when I was at school in Portland - nothing gave me so much delight as receiving letters from my friends & I never shall forget the emotions of pleasure I experienced when after a long interval of silence-I received 5 letters by one mail! Last week I received your kind letter of the 17th Nov which afforded me very great pleasure. You congratulate us my dear Chandler on the birth of a darling infant—and I am sure you will sincerely sympathize with us, on the melancholy event which has since occurred. You have no doubt heard the particulars of his death from some of our family - but you cannot know the pangs which it has cost us to part with him. He was indeed a most interesting and engaging little fellow — he already began to take notice & to look at his father & mother as if he knew them and by a thousand endearing ways—by his sweetness & patience during a most painful illnefs, he so won upon our affections that we almost idolized him. When I think of him it seems as if my bereaved heart would break—but it was the will of a wise Providence who knows what is best for us, to take him from us—& may he teach my rebellious heart to say "thy will be done." When I had him with me in health I could sit down with his father at our little fireside and say "my fondest youthful dreams of happinefs are realized" but how frail is every pleasure which this life affords! how necessary is it that we constantly remember that we are pilgrims to another world.

I am glad to hear you are preparing for college, your advantages I suppose are greater at Andover than they would be in Philadelphia—but it is painful to be separated from ones family, & more particularly so to a Parent to be obliged to send a child from them. I trust that you will conduct yourself in such a manner as to give your Parents no cause of uneasinefs. You have, I am convinced, too strong a mind to allow yourself to be led astray by thoughtlefs companions—& I trust you have within you a noble ambition to become a good and great man—should heaven spare your life. Life is so uncertain that our chief aim should be to fulfill the duties which

are assigned us & to prepare for another world.

You are mistaken in supposing us to have here, perpetual spring—our climate is much milder than your's but we have some days of severe cold The [torn] has this winter been as low as 16. We have freq[uent] sudden & great changes in the Weather. The thermometer at this season not unfrequently rises or falls 20 or 30 degrees in 12 hours. We have not had any snow as vet — Christmas day was very mild, Ther 71. We had a severe frost on the 8 Nov which injured the cotton considerably. There was many novelties to me in this country such as the vegitation of cotton—sugar cane—& thousands of plants & trees which I never before saw, among which are the Fig tree the Pomegranite tree. A beautiful tree call'd the "Pride of China" & also a very handsome evergreen call'd "Gloria Mundei." I have no room for a description of Lebanon—have no late news from Phila should be very glad to hear often from you. From your affecⁿ sister R.I.M.

Mr. Miller desires to be affectionately remembered to you. Mrs Sargent & the Gov often inquire after you—they are both well as usual.

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Mrs. Benj Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.¹

Marietta Feby 15th 1819

Yours of December 29th now lies before me, my dear son, and we are happy to hear you enjoy such good health. We were greatly astonish'd to hear that your Uncle Peter did not comply with your request. Did you send to Benjamin for the amount? In your next, tell me if you have received any thing yet, from your Uncle. I think he must have been out of town. In a letter from your sister Eliza, she informs us, you had changed your place of residence, and now board with Dr Porter. This information did not please your Pa'a, although he says, he thinks it will be more advantageous to you, to live in Dr Porter's family. — Yet he says boys should not think about what they eat, but mind their study's. For my part, I was rejoiced that you had made the exchange, and that you had the privilege of an asylum in the Divinity College. O may you, while their my dear son, be pluck'd as a brand from the burning. May a sovereign God, convert your precious soul, and make you an instrument in his hands, for the conversion of thousands. O that it may please an Infinitely holy God, to answer my prayers for you - not for any worth in me, for I am a poor sinsick soul - but for his own glory. Yesterday, was a solemn day, to many in this place, and I trust, a precious season. Twelve new Communicants set down with us, to the table of the Lord. Your dear Uncle, gave us an excellent sermon from Titus 2d, 13 and 14 verses. In the afternoon, seven children were baptized. Mr & Mrs David Putnam, at the communion season, were very much affected. I do believe they have both passed from death unto life but are so full of doubts, respecting their own sinfulness that they cannot vet come forward & make

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

a profession of their love to Jesus. This is a rock, which many split upon, and I believe, is a temptation of satan to keep them away. They have an Idea that they are not worthy, and must keep back, until they are more fit to come. If we wait for that—we may wait forever. for who is worthy, of so great a privilege. If we have a hope founded on the merits & atonement of a crucified Redeemer and can say with Paul, I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that, which I have committed unto him I think it the duty of all such to come, with all their sins, & sorrows, doubts & fears and lay them at the foot of the Crofs and say, If I Perish—I will perish here.

This town—your native place—is much changed, in a religious point of view—they have never been favourd with a revival of religion—yet additions are constantly made to the church, of such I trust—as shall be saved.

I presume my dear Chandler you would like to hear particularly of your old mates. A Mr Slocum keeps an excellent school, at the brick school-house, on this side the river—and last week, an exhibition was held of the first class. The house was full, to overlowing. stage was built up about four feet from the floor - a handsome curtain acrofs the house, twelve or fifteen feet from the fire-place, which was raised and fell—as the sceenes began, and closed. A handsome carpet on the stage - and several amusing dialogues & pieces, performed & spoken very well. Henry Fearing open'd the exercises, by speaking a piece composed for the occasion. Peter and Douglas Putnam had a part in 2 or 3 dialogues & perform'd extremely well. The death of Goliath was perform'd by a young gentleman 1/2 head taller than your brother Robert - & Daniel Whitney. The former took the part of Goliath, the later — who has a ruddy & fair countenance - perform'd the part of David. Read the 17th chapt of 1st Samuel and you will have an Idea of this dialogue. While Goliath the Philistine was raging with fury in his countenance, at the Stripling David— Daniel Whitney listned to him, with such a sweet, composed countenance, as interested every spectator. At last — when Goliath told him to come near to him & he would give his flesh to the fowls of the air & to the

beasts of the field - Daniel took 5 smooth stones out of his bag—put one into his sling—and smote the Philistine & he fell dead to appearance on the floor & the curtain drop^d. We had music between every sceene—& the whole was closed with an address spoken by one of the scholars, to the audience, Master, and scholars who were to leave the school. I have given your dear little brothers a particular account of the performances of their old school mates - which I think will be pleasing. I hope my dear son—you will be careful of your eyes. You doubtlefs recollect how often I had to reprove you for reading between daylight & dark. Or in the evening, at a distance from the candle. Dont read long at a time. You are now at an age, when every thing of the kind, will affect you. Hope you will take good care of your teeth & hair. You have not told me whether you bought you a Pladd cloak. When you write, I think you better lay my last letter always before you & then you can answer all my questions. When you reply to this — which I beg may be very soon—direct your letter to Washington Mississippi where I hope a kind Providence will carry us before your letter can reach this place. We know of no Opportunity yet, but hope to be on our way in two weeks. If my life is spared to see Phila again - I shall want to take a trip next to Andover. That you may be enabled to follow the example of your dear departed Grand Pa'a - whose name you bear & who I trust is now in Glory—& that a Kind Providence may watch over your steps-keep you from all sin and grant us all a happy meeting with our dear family—is the daily prayer of your ever affectionate mother H. Gilman. ---

P.S. Your dear Pa'a sends much love.

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Arthur and Winthrop S. Gilman to their parents, Marietta, Ohio.

Philad. March 2nd; 1819.

Dear Parents

At the request of Joseph and Grandmaa and seconded by my own inclination, I devote a few moments to the

pleasing occupation of writing you. Joseph leaves us to morrow morning at four o, clock for Marietta; we are very sorry to part with him, but his friends strongly advise it and it will doubtlefs be for his benefit. I still continue with Mr Ferris, and I have advanced in algebra as far as Surds. Yesterday Eliza received a letter from Chandler he was very well, and had been spending the vacation (two weeks) at Roxbury, he spent his time very pleasantly he was out almost every evening till 12 or 1 o clock Andover notwithstanding. I have almost finish'd reading the Bible tr and am a going to learn the last chapter in Malachi. when I have I will write to you And you can send and order to Benjⁿ to pay me the haf dollar. By the way Mrs Sninner has got a daughter and there is great lamentation about it, because they wanted it to be a son. Eliza says that Jane Hodgdon told her that they were a going to call it Karen Happuch after Old Job's third daughter. Wint is in such a hurry that I can not write any more. I am your affectionate

Arthur Gilman.

Dear Parents

As Joseph leaves here to morrow I cannot deny Myself the pleasure of sending you a few lines. something whispers me, they will not prove unacceptable, as coming from Your youngest son Winty. Mrs Ralstone called here the other day in a very friendly manner, set an hour and a half with Grandmama and told her that the house occupied by Mr Rodman would soon be to Let and that it was every way calculated for our family and advised to make immediate application. Benj. as well as all the family (except me) are in favour of it, it has Backbuildings and a fine Yard. I believe it is the same house that Papa dined in several years since Owned by M^r Wells. I suppose you will soon Leave Marietta for Natchez I hope it will be soon so that You may return to us by the 1 of June I wish You a pleasant Journey and a safe Return. Family all desire love to You both I remain my dear Parents Your Affectionate Son

W. S. Gilman.

Excuse my bad writing.

¹ Skinner.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. Joseph Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa. 1

Glocester Place March 29th 1819

Presuming it will be interesting to you, my dear mother, to have a particular account of our voiage to this place, I will copy a Journal which I kept from the time we left Marietta untill our arrival at this place. After waiting 3 or 4 weeks, expecting the river to rise sufficiently for us to descend, & almost despairing of it, we were favored with a sudden rise of water, and a steamboat appeared commanded by Capt Peirce, of Hingham, who lives next door to Mr Philip Ammidon and in 20 minutes warning we found ourselves on board, and bid adieu to Marietta, on Tuesday 9th of March at 12 o'clock A.M. We have near 30 passengers—including 3 Ladies. A Mr & Mrs Simson, who made themselves very conspicuous—are from England, & are going to reside in Cincinnata. Mr Simson is very large, six feet, & very robust, of independant fortune. He does not appear to notice his wife, they have separate rooms—she, with her dressing maid—& he with his valet-de-Chambre, who sits at his side at mealtimes, & helps him, Just as you do Arthur. Altho we have had an excellent cook, & Roaste Beef - Mutton, Veal, Hams - Chickings - Puddings -Tarts—Cheese—Preserves—Apples &c &c—yet nothing is good enough for him. He turns his inexpressive eyes at everything on the table. And with a vacant stare exclaims 'what's that.' Do tell me what is that. Then turns up his little nose—with sovereign contempt—and asks for a cracker. He appears to me, like a spoild child. I long to box his ears. His wife is a sensible, well inform^d woman. And appears to wish to become all things to all men. We pass Gallipolis, at 9 in the evening. Which I regret as I feel a curiofsity to see some of its inhabitants. We arrive at Limestone, Wednesday morning 10 o clock. Made a short stay of 2 hours, then proceeded to Cincinnata, where we landed at 5 o clk same evening, making 310 miles in 25 hours.

¹ Original owned by Winthrop S. Gilman, Palisades, N. Y.

Gilman call' on Mr James, who introduced us into the boarding-house of Mr Bainbridge, formerly of Phila. & Brother to Commodore Bainbridge. Mrs B—— is daughter to Commodore Truxon of Phila an interesting woman, & family. They have 20 boarders. Among them is Mr Lamson, who has been very low with a fever, but is convalescent. This town, is so much improved that you would not know it. It is laid out in squares, like Phil^a — and has a large number of handsome houses. The ladies with whom I was formally acquainted, call on me, and are very pressing in their invitations—but I feel such anxiety about my belover son Joseph, who I think must be between this & Phila—that I cannot accept of them. Capt Peirce expects to be detained here, 2 or 3 Thursday 11th Mrs Ziegler who lives next door, below us, insists on our dining with her this day and ma-chere aimée [sic] thinks it will not do to refuse. We passd a very agreeable day with her, & returnd to our lodgings, and retired to bed, with a dreadful head-ache. Before ten, we heard a gun—which always anounces the arrival of a steam-boat—and in a few moments, heard the animating voice of our dear son Joseph, at the door. Instantly the head-ache fled—and we were quite happv. — Friday 12th — Rode thro' every part of the town and saw everything which was to be seen. Gov Sargent's house - looks like an old stable. But the situation is beautiful beyond description. It commands a view of the whole town. Mr Burnet told me, his situation there was an estate. We drank tea at Mrs Burnets — who lives in high style.

Saturday, 8 o clk A. M. We all take our seats in the steam-boat for Louisville. We have a strong wind against us all day but arrive there at 8 o clk in the evening, distance 150 miles. This town is also laid out in squares. It stands on an eminence of 70 feet in heigth—which descends to a narrow plain, along the river, side in front of the town. It contains 300 houses—1 Presbyterian, 1 Methodist & 1 Roman Catholic Church, 2 printing offices—a post office—a book store, a circulating liberary—a reading-room—an iron foundry—a glass-house—Cotton-Manufactory &c—and has the appearance of a place of business—but looks very much

like the lower part of Chesnut St. Sunday we went to church with Mr Chambers, who has been very polite. Heard an excellent sermon, from a Mr Banks of Fairfield Connecticut. Whom Mr Gilman formerly knew. In the evening who should come in but Mrs Weld, of Belville—who resides here & keeps a boarding-house. With a son of William Goodwin of Plymouth. Monday 15th It rains, all day. Tis thought best that Joseph should go with us to Shawneetown, 38 miles from this place. Tuesday, extreme cold snow-storm. We keep house all day. — Wednesday — very cold — calld to see Mrs Weld. Thursday 18th—went on board the Steam-boat at 11 o clk A. M. & found some new passengers. Dr Miller & Lady—with her Brother, Dr. Perry. Mrs Miller is peculiarly interesting to us all. She is the exact resemblance of our dear Rebecca. Just such a form-Just such eyes—hair & manners. I feel unwilling to part with her. The wind is against us, all night—& no moon — until 3 o clock. We have run this day 275 miles. in 24 hours. Friday 19th clouday — the wind against us. Dr & Mrs Miller go ashore to their habitation at Hender-Our supply pumps fail & we stop at Shawnee-Here we remain, from 12 o clk A. M. until 11 town. P M. Here we part with our dear son, who, with Mr Coleman of Cincinnata, will go on to St Louis. I feel grateful to a kind Providence, that he has such a good companion in the route he is to take—which appears to me very hazardous. At 11- we leave Shawneetown, & go Hurricane Island, 25 miles, where our pumps again fail, & we anchor in the river until 7 o clk Saturday morning, when we embark in a violent snow-storm. waters are very high & rapid—wind high—& it snows so all day—we can scarcely discern the shore. However we have a good Pilot—who appears to understand his business—and blessed be God—an Infinitely holy being who has said, when thou passest thro' the waters I will be with thee, & thro' the floods, they shall not overflow thee. Precious promise. Here we enter the Mifsifsippi. Which is 3 miles wide. The wind, excefsively high, the pumps refuse to do their office, & at 3 o clk P. M. we anchor 75 miles below Hurricane Island. Sunday 21t. We remain here all day. & night. Examine the

Pumps & Engine found the difficulty, & take in 23 cords of wood. Mr Gilman took a walk 1 mile. Saw a man who had lived in a Kentucky-boat, 3, years. A sweet little woman for wife, & 3 children. The man said to him, is not your name Benin Ives Gilman of Exeter I went to the accademy with you — my name is Hutchins. He said he should start tomorrow for St Louis — & we both wrote to Joseph. Monday 22d—we left this place 6 o clk A. M with a very high wind against us — yet we go 12 miles an hour, & the pumps work well. We pass an Island which shows the marks of the effects of the earthquakes in Decr 16th 1811. The right bank for several miles above, & below this Island, appears much lower than it formerly Many of the trees standing in all directions & particularly the willows on the willow-bar opositeclearly evince the concufsions of the earth. This Island is crack^d to that degree, that several large trees, standing on the cracks, are split, from the tops down to the roots. We pass N Madrid, which is a most miserable looking place. Not a house in it fit to be inhabited. To day we have run 140 miles. Tuesday 23^d We leave Bayou river at 7 in the morning, & pass a Chickasaw Bluff. This is a most beautiful part of the river, but very thinly inhab-This Bluff, I'm told is 200 feet in heigh - singularly shaped & variegated with different colours of earth, of which the yellow, is most conspicuous. I'm told the earth when first pick up & wet — has a soapy feeling, & would answer for Potters clay. The yellow and pink colour earths, are often collected, & ground in oil, and make a handsome paint. I saw one house painted with it, which look^d extremely well. This day, we ran 126 miles. Wednesday 24th Cloudy, dark day. Wind excefsively high against us — a dreadful sea — I am very sick. can eat nothing all day. Anchor at night to my great relief, made only 98 miles. Thursday 25 fine day—we ran 150 miles. Anchor at night, & the hands work until 2 o clk, taking in wood. 23 cords. Friday 26 very pleasant. The Captain talks of running all night that he may reach Natchez tomorrow. This is the first day since we left Marietta, that I could bear to sit on deck. Owing to the extreme cold. The Cypress - Cottonwood & willows, with which the banks of the Mississippi abound - are just

beginning to put out. We anchor, at 8 o clk—after running 150 miles. Saturday, 27th We begin our last days sail at 5 o clock in the morning. And after a dull uniformity of a flat, swampy forest, for seven hundred miles—we now behold a bold, but gradually rising ground of six hundred feet in height—and near two miles in extent, coverd with a fine culture of cotton and corn—whose rows are so varied in direction, by the numerous hillocks and gullies on the side of the hills as to give great beauty and variety to the whole scene.—This is the first warm day we have had. The Banks are coverd with flowers, and the scene is truly picturesque. As I approach Natchez—I have a thousand fears—and my heart sickens and sinks—2 hours, will bring us there. I can write no more.

29th March—I have the inexpressible pleasure to inform you, my dear mother—that we landed at Natchez, 7 o clock on Saturday evening. A few moments after the gun was fired - Mr Thomson came down to the boat, and urged our going to his house that night—but as it was too late to go to Gov Sargents—we remaind on board, all night. It seems, Mr Thomson sent out at ten o clk to the Gov^{rs}, with information of our arrival. Who dispatch^d one of his negro's to Lebanon at 10 clk—who arrived at 3 Just before day, with a billet to Mr Miller with a pressing invitation for them to come to Gloscester-Place and meet us. At day light, Mr Thomson came to the steamboat with a Gig for us—& he rode on horseback to the Gov^{rs}—where we were received with open arms, and every expression of friendship. After breakfast—we impatiently waited the arrival of our dear children—and at last we saw the white horse & Gig at a great distance with old Ben on another white horseand in a few moments my beloved child was in my arms. She is perfectly well—but is full as slim as when you saw her. No alteration, except her complexion is better. We shall go to Lebanon tomorrow. The Gov & Lady beg to be rememberd with much affection to you. He has advertized all his property, and written to Mr. Merridith to purchase a handsome house &c on Chesnut—and immediately after the sale, he is determined to spend his days in Philadelphia. Please to remember us

to the dear children—and family, not forgetting all enquiring friends. Rebecca wishes to add and I will only say I am your ever affectionate daughter—I shall write my dr Eliza after we arrive in Lebanon. HG—

My dear Eliza—I intended to have written you a long P. S. but have been prevented till too late almost to say anything. I am as happy as you can possibly imagine in having my dear parents with us—We all go to Lebanon tomorrow [torn] breakfast—where we expect to enjoy ourselves highly [torn] come back to Gloster Place—& so back & forth—I have a young gentleman in my eye¹ who I intend to send on to Phila—a most interesting personage—fine talents—engaging person—of a most amiable disposition. Mr & Mrs S. love him like a son—he has spent the day here since Ma'a arrived & she is very much interested in him—but I will say no more at present. I intend to write you very soon—Mr M is well & begs to be remembered. Your affec

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Arthur and Winthrop S. Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.

Philada April 4th 1819

Dear Brother

I realy ought to be asham'd of myself for not answering your letter sooner but I have been so taken up with my pigeons & Theatre that I have not had time. for I think Eliza told you that the castle was metamorphose'd into a pigeon-house & theatre. Last Saturday wint had his Benfit & I am to have mine next Saturday, Squantum' had the tragedy's of Cato & Richard the third but I have not chosen one for mine. I have some thought's of taking Hamlet the Dane. Our pigeons came on bravely though we have not raised one pair yet. One of wints have got eggs but whether they will hatch or not I don't know, but we indulge hopes. because we are very anxious to raise one pair. Jane is sitting on one side of me & wint & Grandmaa on the other, Jane is writing to her Parents.

¹ This is evidently William Sargent.

¹ Nickname for WINTHROP S. GILMAN.

Grandmaa is reading the Bible & Wint is waiting for me to close my letter. Robert and Eliza together with Mifs Modewell & Mifs Elizabeth Jaudon (Mifs Maria is indisposed) to S' James' Church. Benjamin is gone to the session room as usual, and Tom' is gone I do not know were. The family desire their love to you. And Cousin Jane her respects—she says she will write you soon. Wint grows very impatient. And I must draw to a close.

Your affectionate Brother Arthur Gilman.

Dear Brother Philadelphia April 4 1819

I have been scratching my head almost half an hour and cannot get any thing out to tell you. Grandmama says, where there is not any thing nothing can be drawn out last Fryday night I was at the Mechanical museum there I saw a Variety of things amongst which w[torn] Invisible Conversant, which, if you speak to it it would answer you it favoured us with a very fine song. there was a Mysterious Penman which would write You any name also a little Magician who if you would put a question Into a drum a little door would fly open over his head and answer you for instance Who was the Greatest General in the world [torn] Gen¹ George Washington I now must Bring my letter to a close. By saying I am Your Affectionate Brother

Winthrop Sargent Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.

Philadelphia June 16th 1819

You can have no Idea my beloved son how happy I feel in being able to address you once more from this place. I take the earliest Opportunity to relieve your anxiety with respect to our fafety by informing you that we arrived at our dear home yesterday after a tedious pafsage of 22 days from N Orleans. We had the whole pafsage head winds & calms, except two days. In the gulf of Florida we had one of the most distrefsing nights I ever pafs^d. A dreadful storm of wind rain thunder &

¹ Thomas P. Bancroft was living with the Gilmans at this time.

lightning as I ever witnefs^d. My terrour was beyond all discription. I expected every moment would be my last. But in my distrefs I cried to the Lord and he heard me and delivered me out of all my troubles. Blefsed be his name for all his mercies. We anchord at the Lazzeretto, night before last, and yesterday morning we started for Philadelphia. There was not a breath of wind and we drifted very slowly with the tide until we came in sight of the City, where we were overtaken by the baltimore steam-boat, whose Capt kindly offered to tole us up and fastned his boat to the ship and we came very well until we got Just below the Navy-vard, where we saw your dear Brother Robert coming to meet us in a small skiff. He was alone, and row'd so near the steam-boat. he was in great danger of being suck under the wheel. The passengers from both versels scream to him to warn him of his danger & with greatest exertions he got clear & came round to the ship. He then caught hold of the side of the ship and she went so fast he could not keep hold, & one of the passengers threw a rope to him, which he caught & it instantly pull him out of the skiff. He came up & had presence of mind enough to swim for his boat—caught hold of it & sprung in. O my dear Chandler - what a scene was this for a Parent to witness. Heaven be praised he is well—& all our beloved family. Your dear sister Rebecca was well & sends you much The family all Join me, in tender love to you. Write me soon & tell me how you feel & what you want. How is your health & eyes dont study to hurt them. Your sister says if her life is spared next spring they will come and make us a visit. If so we shall all give you a call. H Gilman From your ever affectionate mother

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Some comment on the letters of Mr. Gilman's later years is needed to explain his increasing financial embarrassments. The origin of the distress which prevailed throughout the country at this time, was the banking conditions, but that story must be sought elsewhere. Paper currency, unsound banking methods, the sudden

growth of the population after the War of 1812 and apparent prosperity which induced speculation, made a poor foundation for commerce. But added to these were the following difficulties to be reckoned with.

The western merchant's goods were shipped by wagon across the Alleghenies, taking about twenty-four days in transit, while his orders went back by stage; goods to be sent for sale to Philadelphia could not go up the Ohio, so they had to wait in Cincinnati or elsewhere for high water, no ice, or a suitable boat, thereby often accumulating in such quantities that prices were inevitably lowered; meanwhile imports from England came to the Eastern markets and were auctioned off by unscrupulous dealers, often for such low prices that the slow moving freight from Ohio hardly sold for cost on arrival; and the farmers, who should be the reliance of a community, found the carriage of their grain and more bulky produce to the river ports so high that it did not pay to send, and contented themselves with bartering among their neighbors, which prevented them from having any money to pay their debts and taxes.

Indeed the situation of the west in the first quarter of the nineteenth century was an attempt to do the impossible, and yet it was through this attempt that it grew and developed. When railroads were consructed and canals were cut, Ohio and the west came into their own, but before that time, hundreds of men made the same struggle and failed as did Mr. Gilman.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Andover, Mass.¹

Philadelphia 26th July 1819

My dear Son,

I duly reed Your Letter, in which you mentioned that you should want Sixty-eight or Seventy Dollars, about

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

this time. Enclosed You will find a check for Seventyfive Dollars drawn by E Chauncey, Cashr, -on the Cashier of the Manufacturers & Mechanics Bank, Boston. You must endeavour to curtail every expence not absolutely necessary: for I assure you, my dear Son, that it is with the utmost difficulty that I can raise money for current wants. You can have no idea of the distrefs prevailing in the Commercial World. Some of the first merchants in this City have failed & no one can say when the difficulties will end. Immediately on rect of this, You will make out a fair copy of your acct giving Credit for all monies received & charging your disbursements & send it to me pr mail. Above all things let me conjure You not to run in debt for any thing excepting your Board. Let no acquaintance entice you to this baneful practice. Recollect, that the moment that you become a Debtor, you loose your independence and are liable to be dunned by a person whom you may despise. your independence & you will then always be respectable. Do not mistake my meaning & suppose that I design to inculcate supercilious haughtinefs. Far from it, for I wish you to be modest & unafsuming and never to value yourself for an [torn] attainments in learning. Be careful to conduct yourself with polite propriety in the family where you may reside, & particularly to the females.— Nothing has a better effect on the manners of a young Gentleman, than afsociating occasionally with genteel Ladies, whose minds have been well cultivated.

Your Brother Robert speaks well of the House where you board, but I do not like the plan of selecting a Tavern for a residence. How has it happened that you have changed your lodgings so often? This has not a good appearance. & I fear you have been found a troublesome boarder. You can surely find a plenty of good rye & indian bread & milk, and a student ought to be well contented with such fare. Let it be constantly imprefsed on your mind, that you are obtaining an education, not as an ornamental acquisition for a man of fortune; but for the purpose of making yourself respectable in one of the learned professions. I hope to be able to pay your expences while in College, but depend upon it, my son, that you will have to depend upon your own exertions, after

your education is compleated. In some of your letters, I observe you speak contemptuously of the people of Andover. I know them well, or rather I well know the character of the Inhabitants of the New England towns generally. They are obliged to be frugal and industrious [torn] eyes they may appear mean, but on the whole they are useful, good & respectable citizens.

I have many things more to say but the hour for clos-

ing the Mail has arrived. Your affece Parent

Benj^e Ives Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, at Harvard College.

Philadelphia Sept^r 20th 1819—

Robert has just handed me your letter my dear Son of 12th untimo I am greatly relieved and I hope truly thankful that your life has been spared, while on the great deep, and that you have returnd in health to your home. Your letter written at Hallowel, I received & was sorry to hear your aunt Harriot was sick. In your next, I hope you will mention her and tell me how you left your uncle who you saw there, and how you passd your time. &c. We recd a letter from your Pa'a last week, dated at Chillicotha, the yellow fever was there, & he was going next morning to leave it, for Cincinnata wher he expected to meet Joseph 15th of this month. When you write Joseph, direct to Lexington. He will go there after Cincinnata and then to Louisville, where if you should wish to write him again—direct to care of David C. Skinner merch^t. Your sister Eliza received a letter yesterday from Rebecca. They were well but complaind much of poor crops &c. Gov S and Mrs S were quite unwell with bad colds. The Gov had suffered more than ever - with the gout. Both his hands had been intirely uselefs, & were drefsd every day by a physician. Mrs Thompson (her daughter) had a fine daughter, and your Sister thought it would weigh 12 pounds. She an-

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ Mrs. Winthrop Sargent was Mrs. Mary (Mackintosh) Williams and Mrs. Thompson was evidently a daughter by her first husband.

ticipates great pleasure, in a visit to us next spring. Dear child I hope her precious life will be spared—& that we all shall meet once more—under the smiles of Heaven.

Your Brother Robert sometimes talks of going to the easward—but whether he will or not is uncertain. I think it rather a fortunate circumstance for you that you had it not in your power, to make a visit at Providence, as Moses has Just return^d—Charlotte¹ quite sick—and Gen¹ Mason a relation of their's, has lately died. The family are in confusion, & trouble. Thomas has not yet return^d—& our family is very small. He was sent out to collect debts. The times are dreadful.² Benj. has to pay to Banks in four weeks 50,000 dol¹⁸. But this is between ourselves. He thinks and so do I that you had better keep an account of every cent you spend, and before your Quarter bills are presented let us know time enough to send you the amount.

You will recollect that your uncle Peter borrow^d of your Pa'a about the time he was married three hundred dollars, which was to have been paid to Joseph. But as he could not make it convenient to pay him I hope he will pay the amount Due to you. I trust you have keep^t an account of what he has paid—& will receive the remainder as you need it. Our family, is very expensive, live as economically as we can. And I hope he will consider that it is hard for us to lay out of that money so

¹ The children of Thomas Poynton and Hope (Brown) Ives were Charlotte Rhoda, married in 1821, Prof. William Giles Goddard; Moses Brown, married in 1833, Anne A. Dorr; Elizabeth, died s.p. 1813; Robert Hale, married in 1827, Harriet B. Amory; Hope Brown, died 1837, s.p.; Thomas P., d.y. The only descendants of this family in the third generation are the grandchildren of Mrs. Goddard and Robert H. Ives.

2''In April, 1818, fifteen months after the Bank (the Second United States Bank) started, it was doubtful whether it was solvent.'' In the summer of 1819, it 'took the most energetic measures to save itself and in seventy days was once more solvent but it had ruined the community.'' 'In August, 1819, 20,000 persons were seeking employment in Philadelphia.'' 'The papers were filled with advertisements of sheriff's sales.'' 'The newspapers of 1819 contain numerous accounts of riots, incendiary fires, frauds and robberies.'' History of American Currency, William G. Sumner, 1874. 76, 78, 79, 80.

long. As to our puting money for you in some person's hands, it is idle to think of such a thing. You my dear Son are fully capable to take care of yourself, & when you want money, let us know, & if in our power, you shall have it. Only keep a strict account, And send in a letter—or rather Copy your acct in a letter, & be very exact. As I shall keep those letters for your Pa'as inspection. The family all Join in love. One thing I had almost forgotten—which is—that you will attend the meeting on the Sabbath of a Presbyterian Congregation, or Episcopal. If it be necessary, that I should send a certificate, let me know.

Your affect Mother

H. Gilman

P. S. If it will do, you can turn down the last sentence in this letter, & show the President.

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Joseph Gilman to Elizabeth H. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Bardstown, Kentucky, Oct. 4, 1819

Dear Sister. Monday Morn

Your sincerely welcome letter of 27th August, I received, at Lexington, on the morning of the 15th September. Being banished from HOME, a stranger in a strange land', my almost only satisfaction & enjoyment, is, the receiving of letters from Philadelphia. Now let me mention, I have been absent from home Eight weeks and a half—and received but five * letters—how little pleasure, to be scattered through sixty long days. To Mr. Ammidon, I have written once: to B. I. Gilman Jr, I have written five times; yet not one solitary word, have I received from him, neither have I the least idea of there being a letter on the way for me, nor of his having any notion of writing at all: so I shall not be disappointed, at any rate, unless it be an agreeable one. I trust you now have two or three letters on the way for me: and please to continue, as I requested you, until the 10th of November; all to Lexington: till that time. It

^{*} four from Robert, and one from you. [J. G.'s note.]

is my calculation to employ myself constantly in the State of Kentucky, until the 1st of December next: on which day I expect to set my face for St. Louis. During all this time I shall be in and out of Lexington, every six, to twelve days. So please direct all letters, for me, to Lexington; until the 10th or, at farthest, 12th of November: after the 12th—to St. Louis, Missouri Territory.

In my last letter to Robert, dated Lexington Sep. 29— I requested him to send me by returning mail the 1st & 3d Nos of the Sketch Book 1—I wish to lend them to Amanda, on my return to Lexington. Please ask him, if he has received the letter, and forwarded them - I would not have him fail, on any account. Miss Amanda I think is exceedingly improved, in Beauty—as well as other respects. Yet, I believe, your caution is unnecessary though probably not for the reason you assign. true, Mr Henry, has been a long time in Kentucky—but I am here now—: and you know what our Poets say of the Ladies, "Frailty, thy name is woman." - present company always excepted. Mrs. G. shall be introduced to you, in all due time; but from a different quarter. Stil I anticipate unfeigned pleasure in passing several evenings at Mifs L's—in Lexington. And it will [torn] greatly to our enjoyment if I can have the pleasure of reading the Sketch Book with her. My business in the southern part of this state was so important, and pressing, that, altho I was three days in Lexington, I was not able to do myself the pleasure of calling on Miss L. or her Brother. But will make it up some future time. Give my compliments to Master Wint for the line he did me the honour to add to your letter. Hope he may persue his studies with as much Zeal as he has enjoyed his holydays. Expect to hear from Mr Arthur next. Please give my most devout regards to Miss Maria Jaudon: and accept for your self & family, the love of Your Brother Joseph

Tell Maria I had the pleasure of delivering her letter to Amanda on the 15th Sep^t 11 Oclock A. M. as, also, your

own same time.

¹ Washington Irving's Sketch Book was issued in 1818.





Mrs. Thomas Lippincott (Patty Swift)

From a silhonette owned by her granddaughter, Mrs. Charles P.

Noyes, of St. Paul, Minn.

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We must return to the story of Mrs. Lippincott. She did not long survive the hardships of her journey west. "From that time on until the day of her death, two years 14 days, her life was one of toil, of fatigue, of suffering and trial such as rarely fall to the lot of women. Residence in the pestilential air of Milton . . her last sickness in a settler's cabin and death . . constitute a chapter of . . heroic endurance worthy of a martyr."

She died October 14, 1819, while they were driving through the country for her health and was buried in Shiloh, where they happened to be when she was taken ill. Mr. Lippincott married (2) Henrietta Maria Slater, who also succumbed to malaria and (3) in 1821, Catherine Wyley Leggett, daughter of Capt. Abraham Leggett, of New York and Edwardsville, Ill. This second step-mother was the only mother that little Abia ever knew and the relatives of her two step-mothers as well as her few Swift cousins frequently appear in later letters.

The third Mrs. Lippincott had a family of eleven children.

Winthrop S. Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, at Harvard College.²

Philadelphia October 26th 1819.

I am rejoiced my dear Brother that I have an opportunity of writing you free of Postage. Mrs Patton is now in Alexandria and we hope to have the Pleasure of seeing her here very soon and she has kindly offerd to take charge of anything to you. as we expected her here last week Arthur wrote you a very long letter he says if he has time he shall write you another as that is now an old letter But mama tells him it will be new to you and he had Better send that, Now my dear Brother I am agoing

¹ Presbytery Reporter, 1870, 50.

² MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

to tell you some news which I think will make you feel very glad this day mama received a letter from M^r Miller with the Pleasing Intelligence that our dear Sister Rebbecca had a fine fat fair skinned dark eyed Blak hair'd daughter Born the 30th Day of September in the year of our lord One thousand Eight hundred and Nineteen Being the forty third year of the Independence of the United States of America. We were not Informed the name of the child, but from all accounts we expect it to Be Elizabeth Hannah—

We had a letter from Papa dated at Cincinnati he expected to go to Marietta the next day. Not with a view to return home for he talks of staying in that Country all Winter Joseph was at Louisville he will also stay all Winter Mama is very anxious about them because the Country is so Sickly Poor lizzy is in the dumps she has lately Parted with a dear friend not to mention any names Ben remains in Statu quo Sometimes waites upon a certain lady home from Church. Robert has a Season ticket and goes to the Theatre almost every night it is open your old School master Mr. Fariss is now very sick and not able to keep schooll Our Family are all very well and send a great deal of love to you

From your Affectionate Brother

Wint^p S. Gilman.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, at Harvard College.¹

Philadelphia, October 30th, 1819

I have been waiting for an Opportunity to write you, my dear son, a long time, or rather to send your other flannel Jacket but Mr. Patton did not arrive here as soon as he was expected. Your last letter was dated the 27th of September. You may rest assured, my dear son, that we are all, thank Heaven, in perfect health. Our City was never healthier than at present. Yesterday we received a letter from Mr. Miller with the pleasing intelligence of the birth of a fine daughter. O may it live to

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

grow up and be an ornament to the Church. I shall feel very anxious about Rebecca until we hear again from her, as Mr. M says the Yellow Fever is raging at Natchez and Washington, in all its horrors. I presume you have had the pleasure of seeing Cousin Thomas. By him I wrote and sent you a flannel jacket. I wish you had sent me the sermon at the dedication of the Andover Theological Seminary. I should be much gratified to see it. I have seen Mr. Hewart's answer to Mr. Channing's sermon and think it excellent. Hope you will send both you mention by first Opportunity. You wish to know the names of your Uncle's children; the eldest is Samuel, Hannah, Gilman, Jane, Chandler, your Uncle Isaac's wife's name

was Mary Douglas Howell.

We received a letter vesterday from your dear Pa'a dated at Zanesville. He was on his way to Marietta where he expected to remain until the 20th of November. He has some Idea of remaining there in that country all winter. On the 20th of November he will return to Cincinnati and perhaps to go on to St. Louis. I can hardly bear to think of his staying in that country all winter. We feel the loss of his society most sensibly. I hope, my dear son, you will be as prudent as possible. Your dear Pa'a says it grieves him when he thinks how little he shall be able to do for you when you come out of college. I hope, my dear Chandler, you will be preserved from every vice and above all that you will be kept by the Almighty God from that greatest of all errors, denying the divinity of the Lord that bought you. O my child, beware of that error. Heaven blefs you, prays your ever affectionate mother.

H. Gilman.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth H. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Marietta, 21st. Nov. 1819

You were much mistaking, my dear Eliza, in supposing that your journal would not be interesting, if in contained only a detail of family occurrences. It gives me much more pleasure to hear what my dear little Boys have for

breakfast, & what time they go to School; than to read an account of Orator Hunts 1 triumphant entry into London, or that Buonaparte remains in a sulky fit, at Longwood. I am delighted to hear that you have read Doct Moore & the Abbe Dupatys account of Rome & that you are engaged in reading Fosters Efsays & noting, in a common place Book, the most interesting passages. Your criticism I think perfectly correct. To me "the charms of Nature" are objects of sensibility in a high degree. On the farm (where I now write) when I walk in the forests of Oak, my feelings are much more excited than when traversing the busy streets of New York. has said that were he "in a desert he would select some favourite Tree and carve a true-love knot upon the bark, & would swear that it was the loveliest tree in the forest." Early walks, in dry weather, are certainly conducive to health, and I advise you to continue the practice, without fearing cold weather. It gives elasticity & vigour to the frame; & nothing is more enervating than dozing out the morning upon a bed of down. You appear to triumph in the prospect of your predictions being verified, respecting "giving up the Ship." It may be so, but should the event take place, it will (in my opinion) be owing entirely to injudicious management. Young Girls are often remarkably obstinate, & cannot be driven into measures, especially when those measures are for the interest & hapipness of all concerned. It would occupy too much of my paper to give you my ideas, as to the proper methods to be pursued on such occasions, I shall therefore defer it until we meet. If it were pofsible, my dear Daughter, consistent with interest or duty for me to return immediately to Philadelphia, I should fly to a beloved home, the only haven where I find comfort & happiness. Some recent occurrences render another journey to Cincinnati absolutely necessary, & I assure you that to me the journey will be most unpleasant; as I am extremely averse to taking one step further from home. It is, however, evidently the path of duty, there-

¹ Henry Hunt, an English Radical, 1775-1835. "Acquired popularity with his party by his intrepid audacity and inflammatory harangues." Lippincott's Biographical Dictionary.

fore I shall not hesitate. — You probably remember Mifs Susan Lincoln. She is now a gay, dashing Young Widow, a member of your Uncles Church. About three weeks since, the whim of visiting Gallipolis seized her mind, & it is said that she managed affairs with great adroitness. A week was passed there very pleasantly, & what rendered the visit much more agreeable, was Gen¹ Cushing's engagement to lead her to the altar of Hymen, without delay. Mr. Swan (a Lawyer at Columbus) has exchanged vows with a Widow. He was married about three weeks since. Each of these enterprising Widows have two children. What an excellent opportunity it would have been for Your dear Mother to have crofsed the mountains with Thomas Bancroft. I regret that I did not know of it in time, to have urged her, once more, to have encountered the fatigues of the journey.

If my dear Cousin, M^{rs} Brown should call on her return, present my best regards, and assure her that it would have been a great gratification & pleasure to me,

to have seen her at Philada.

My Farm is very interesting, & if You were all here; I should enjoy myself highly, in making improvements. Are You very anxious to remove and enjoy the "charms of nature" the unsophisticated delights of rural life?—

The other page of this Letter is for Robert.

Your affect^e Parent Benj. Ives Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Robert H. Gilman, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Philadelphia April 3^d 1820

My Dear Robert.

It is impossible for me to express the pleasure your letter to Benjamin has afforded us. Three long weeks

¹ Elizabeth Gilman, daughter of Rev. Tristram Gilman, who married Rev. Francis Brown, D.D., president of Dartmouth College. Dr. and Mrs. Brown stayed at their cousin's home both on their way south and on their return journey. Their son, Samuel G. Brown, became the president of Hamilton College, N. Y.

had elapsed since we heard your Pa'a had left you in Pittsburg. Mr Cushion arrived from Galipolis and told us you left Pittsburgh in a Kentucky boat two hours previous to his arrival at that place. He also told us that he never sufferd more in a snowstorm, than the day after he left Pittsburgh. This information increased our fears, and at times, I really thought you had taken passage with some horrid characters who would murder you — and take your property. I was afraid to make known my fears, least I should distrefs your Grand Maa - and since we received your letter, which was yesterday, I find our thoughts were similar. Altho you say we care but little about your letters—yet I can afsure you my dear Son, that never a child left home who has been more mis'd, and who has been more the subject of conversation than yourself. And now I must express my surprise that you have not received a letter from me—sent to Pittsburgh—and one from your Grand-ma'a and sister, sent to Marietta. You will now my dear Robert, see that your friends have not forgotten you. I had the great pleasure to receive a letter from your Pa'a—dated 12th march and shall answer it very soon. By a letter from my dear Joseph to his Brother—which we also received yesterday, with yours, we find you are at last together. May you have a happy interview—and take all the comfort you can. I hope you will both pay particular attention to your health—and not expose yourselves to the dews of the evening. Our City for six weeks past, has been in constant commotion. It swarms with incendiaries of the vilest kind. Almost every night the inhabitants are alarm'd with the cries of fire. Last week they set fire to a brewery establishment, which consumed—with one or two small houses—and a valuable boardvard. Last evening at seven o'clock, they set fire to the Theatre in Chesnut St—and notwithstanding the expertness of the fire company's—it burnt down, with 50 Gallons of Gas and all the beautiful scenery — Drefses — Arms &c &c but what made it more affecting - poor Mrs Niel's house, was burnt—with the greater part of her property. Shakespere buildings were distroy'd—and much property lost. I'm told that about a week since, M' Wood (the

manager of the Theatre) found a suspicious character in his yard, and confined him. The man was very angry, and told M^r Wood, if he should ever have his liberty—he would burn the Theatre. He soon had his freedom, and

probably put his threats into execution.

I presume you have seen the Philadelphia papers which have given an account of a riot in the Jail. It was really a dreadful day to us. The prisoners made their way thro' two gates—and before the Marines could come up from the Navy-yard, they had nearly effected their escape. One man only was kill^d, and several wounded. Tis said that seven hundred are now in Jail—and all swear revenge. A patrole is scouring the streets and alleys every night—but they still elude their grasp.— I very much fear we shall see distrefsing times this summer—and I frequently wish we were all safely on our farm at Marietta. Benjⁿ will probably write you, or Joseph, tomorrow. I felt so relieved on receipt of your letter to him—that I could not resist the inclination I felt to send

you a few lines this evening.

Last week, Eliza had a small tea-party—and as Ben is no Ladies man—we felt your lofs, and that of your Brother's. Mifs Munroe from Wilmington—two Mifs Jaudon's and brothers Sam' & Will — two Mifs Henrys. Mifs Fullerton—Doc^t Dubarry—M^r Adcock and M^r Guest. Mr A—expects very soon to take his departure for Europe. He requested me to present his respects to you—and say if you, or any of your brothers ever come to England he should be happy to return some of the kind attentions which he had received from your fathers family. This moment, my dear Robert, Benjⁿ has brought a letter from your dear Pa'a—and a P S from you. — dated March 21st — Your memorandum will be attended to immediately. I think you will probably pass your time at Cincinnati, very pleasantly. Tell Joseph, we think he is in a hopeful way. And as to yourself I hope—now you are surrounded with the blooming fair, you will forget Mrs Cotton & Mrs Barlow, and make your bow to the beautiful Mifs Latrobe, Mifs Bainbridge — and others. I shall write soon to your Pa'a, and direct to Marietta—as I presume he is now there. The family

all Join in Affectionate regards to Joseph & yourself. Believe me dear Robert your Affectionate Mother

H G

P S I forgot to tell you that M^r Robert Ralston—and Andrew Hodge have return'd in sound health.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Boston, Mass.

Philadelphia May 30th 1820 Received of B. I. Gilman Jr. One hundred dollars to be paid to the order of Chandler R. Gilman, at Cambridge, Mafsa^c. Francis Brown.

I wrote you my dear son, last week, by Mrs Johnson's son, who expected to go on to Boston, for his health, which is very miserable. But since - I have heard he is much worse—so that he has given up the Journey. His sufferings have been great indeed. But I trust he possefses that peace of mind, which the world cannot give. Your Brother Benjⁿ sent you some time since, an order to draw on him for what money you wanted at sight. But you have not acknowledge" the receipt of the letter. President Brown, of Hanover, N.H.—has made us another visit, with his wife. He has passd the winter at Savannah, in the hope of its being the means of establishing his health—but a misterious Providence who cannot do wrong—appears to be fitting him fast—for heaven. They were with us, eight or nine days - every hour of which, I expected would be his last. They have hired Edward Mitchel—who was Benj^{ns} porter, to live with them, one year. They left us last monday with a hope to reach home, before his death. They were out of money, and Benin let him have the within amount—which was to be paid to vou—for your quarter bills—when due. They will probably send you the money soon after they arrive I am very sorry it was not in your Brothers power to send you the money you wanted - before - but such was the case. In the future, before your bills are

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

² Dr. Brown died July 27, 1820.

due, I wish you would write to me, before its wanted—or in season, & I will remind Benjⁿ every day. He has on the last communion sabbath — made a publick profession of religion. This has been the subject of my poor prayers for a long time. But his doubts with regard to himself keept him back. He has now — before Angel's and men acknowledge'd Jesus to be his Lord and his God. O that all [my] dear children might be prepared to follow his example in the only road, to happiness in this life which will conduct them to immortal glory. My dear Chandler - you in particular - have been, & still are, the subject of my prayers. I have been, perhaps, too solicitus, for you to follow the steps, of your Pious grand Parent for whom you were call'd. But if a wise Providence should see fit that you should not persue the study of Divinity — O may he make you an ornament in his church, and fit you to spend an eternity with him, in that blefsed world where nothing impure can enter. Our family are all well—little Jane is here—& will return with some young mifses who will go to Bethlehem in two weeks. They all unite in love to you. Tis unnecessary for me to say, do be prudent—my beloved child—and remember that Mr Brown whose Father is independent—must be no example for you to immitate. Heaven blefs you

H Gilman

write soon — & let us know how you manage'd the time of your vacation.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to his wife, Philadelphia, Pa.

Cincinnati 23^d May 1820.—

I wrote a line, in great haste, at Maysville, since which I have had the great pleasure, my beloved Wife, of receiving two Letters from You and My dear Mother. I was absent from this Town, more than a month, without hearing one word from any member of our family. The

¹ In an old prospectus of the Bethlehem Female Seminary, Jane Woodbridge's name appears as a graduate, but the date is so early that it is evident that there was a confusion between herself and her mother, Jane (Gilman) Woodbridge, also a graduate of the school.

Steam Boat, in which I was a passenger from Maysville, arrived here at 8 OClock in the eveng. The Bar-keeper told me that Robert was out, but would soon return. You will judge of my anxiety to see him as I was told, by an acquaintance, that he had that day received a number of letters from home. My patience was not quite exhausted until 15 past ten, when a Gentⁿ mentioned that he had just left R— at a large party dancing with the Ladies. From that time I counted the tedious minutes, & my Gentleman did not return until 1/2 past one. Yesterday morning I returned from Louisville, & if I could only continue my journey eastward, how happily the moments would pass. Every day of my tedious exile, appears more painful than the last. I wrote to our dear Rebecca, urging in the strongest terms her leaving Lebanon immediately, as I had no doubt but she could go with Mrs Thompson, or some other suitable company. It was impracticable for Joseph, Robert or myself, to visit New Orleans this Spring. Mr Mayo told me, Yesterday, that he had recently rec^d a Letter from Gov^r Sargent in which he desired him to direct the Answer to Philada: of course I presume You will have the pleasure of seeing Mrs Sargent, in all next month. When I left my beloved family, I flattered myself that my return would not be delay'd beyond the 4th of July; but now I see no prospect of an end to my banishment. All depends on the collection of Money, & this is a task that every day becomes more & more hopelefs. The Laws in this State & Kentucky prevent everything like coercion, and we have only to depend upon the honour of Debtors. I fear we are leaning upon a broken reed. Joseph is now on a tour thro' the Southern part of Kentucky & will return in about ten days. Robert is here, in good health, & waiting with great impatience for the arrival of the last Goods (brown Shirtings &c), forwarded by Benjamin. Not a word has he heard from them, since the Wagons left Philada. Merchandise which left the City, ten days after Robert's arrived vesterday. If much longer delayed, it will occasion a serious lofs. Mr Guest arrived here some days since. Eliza's letter to Joseph has been recd & I rejoice to hear that she continues practicing on the Harp.

I suppose you have had a housefull of Presbyterian Ministers, & enjoyed Yourselves highly. To be candid, I must confess that I have had some fears that Doct Gmight be one of your guests. His established character and insinuating manners, render him very formidable & dangerous. You have doubtlefs seen the account of the elopement of Elder T- from Paris, Kentucky. After three or four weeks the old Gentleman, found out that he was in an error, made an escape from the Young Syren, & last week went home to his loving Wife. He has confels'd his naughty faults & his wife, like a good Christian has forgiven all his abberations. I cannot answer your enquiries respecting the Rev^d — at present. The Lady, with the bewitching eyes, is said to be at Bordentown (Jersey) doing very well, & as comfortable as could be expected. I am not quite sure that my language is appropriate, but presume it will be understood.

It gives me pleasure to hear of the musical parties, which have enlivened your evenings; but tell Eliza that I do not approve of M^r A's becoming an acquaintance of our family. I can never think well of a man, who has so far forgotten his character as to make a bet that he could gain a Young Lady's affections. The mind must be mean, sordid, selfish, depraved, deceitful, vile & destable, before a thought so grovelling could be admitted. To trifle in this base manner, with Lovely Womans heart, is an evidence of innate corruption which would disgrace even Lord Byron. Such a character must be destitute of every moral quality: of every chivalrous & noble sentiment. In the following lines such a character would find

There is a language by the virgin made, Not read, but felt, not uttered but betray'd: A mute communion yet so wondrous sweet Eyes must impart, what tongue can ne'er repeat. Tis written on her cheeks & meaning brows, In one short word, whole volumes it avows. O tis so chaste, so touching, so refined, So soft, so wistful, so sincere, so kind &c

no beauties.

¹ Probably the meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly.

It is to be presumed that M^r A —— would call this sentimental nonsense. I shall resume this subject hereafter; in the meantime tell Mifs Eliza to take her toast & tea "with what appetite she may."

I am in daily expectation of hearing favourable news from Zanesville. If You, my Dear, were there I should

fly to meet You, on the Wings of the Wind.

To live in this state of seperation from a beloved family, is wasting precious hours of life: it is more than I can bear. If no favourable alteration occurs in businefs, I shall urge a removal of the whole family to this Country. My dear little Sons Arthur & Winthrop must improve present opportunities, for perhaps they will not have the advantage of a Philada School next season. My health continues very good & I see no one with a better appetite; excepting Your Brother & One or two Clergymen whom I have occasionally met. Mrs Wiggins & Mifs Barton have just passed our room, & Robert has darted out to gallant them in their walk. He is engaged at a party this evening & since he went out an invitation for tomorrow evening has been recd-I sometimes wish my dear Eliza was here, with her Harp & Piano. Give my best love & duty to my excellent Mother. Present my respects to Mrs Latimer & remember me most affectionately to our dear Children.

Yours with every sentiment of re-

gard & Love

Benj' Ives Gilman

Always tender my best regards to M^r Ammidon & Lady. I am sensible that he & Benjⁿ have much more to suffer, than we have here. Do not fail continuing Your Journal. I am very anxious to have an answer from Benjⁿ to some queries in my Letter from Maysville, dated 1 May.

Tell Benjamin that Domestic Goods are (at the present moment) in great demand in this Town, & Chambrays sold this day at Auction at, 30 Bankable Money, equal to,

22 specie.

M^{rs} Hannah Gilman N° 215 Market S^t Phila.—

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Robert H. Gilman, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Philadelphia July 6th 1820

With a degree of pleasure which I cannot discribe, my dear Son, do I acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter, of June 25. I knew you had left Cincinnati, for a tour through the country—and cherish a hope that you would steal a few moments from business, and while traveling through some of the post towns drop a line for Benjⁿ — and I thought if I could only hear you were well, I should be content not to be remember'd by you. But you are as usual a thoughtful son—and will not forget those who love you. You have doubtlefs heard before this, of the death of Gov Sargent. While we were expecting the pleasure of seeing him every hour, we were inform'd he was no more. His poor Afflicted family, we expect to embrace every day. We learn from a New Orleans paper, the Tennesee left that port, on the 8th of June. This is the 29th day they have probably been at sea. I sent a continuation of my Journal to your dear Pa'a, last saturday, and regret to say I forgot to date it 1st July. Your sister is anticipating the pleasure of receiving a line from you, by Mr Guest, whom we understand is expected every day. Your account and M' Merricks, do not agree. He writes Mr M— that he is very anxious to see Philadelphia—that since he left him he has seen some very agreeable young ladies, and one, or two, who are calld very beautiful—but he adds—"they have no charms for me". M' M was so kind, as to bring his last letter for us to peruse. He writes in a very easy style, and gives very Just discriptions of the country through which he has pass^d and its Inhabitants. But I must say that from the whole tenour of his letter, I should really suppose the writer to be in love. Whether he has left his heart in Philadelphia or lost it, in Cincinnati or Lexington, I cannot determine. We were much surprised to hear of Miss Reid's elopement, but must remain in the dark, on that subject, until your arrival, as your

¹ Governor Sargent died of the gout in New Orleans, June 3, 1820.

friend M^r John R Latimer has not had the goodness to call on us, since you left us. I have frequently towards night, seated myself at the front window, hoping to see him pals, that I might have the pleasure of conversing with him about Robert—but I have not been so fortunate as to see him. Your friend Andrew, follows his brother James example, and constantly pays Mifs Gilman a visit, every friday evening. He appears truly friendly, and very agreeable—and candidly confesses he is not fond of musick, and had rather set and talk. He told Eliza, last friday evening, that he was afraid she did not like him. E told him she like him very much—because she knew he loved you. William is immersed in businels, and scarce ever finds time, to visit his friends. For a long time, I felt quite hurt, and was afraid some of us. unintentionally had offended him. But when I hinted it, he laugh very heartily—and afsured me that was not the case, and very candidly told me the times were so hard, that he found it required every exertion to make his payments in season. Mifs Jaudon, and the Mifses Henry's are well, and often speak of you, with much interest. Maria said to me, last evening, Mrs G—when is Robert coming home. All our beau's have deserted us. O if I could only see Robert, and John Henry return, I should be quite happy. The latter is expected every hour. And when dear Robert, shall we see you. You say nothing in your letter about returning home — I sometimes in my moments of depression — think I shall never again see my beloved family, all together. But I soon check myself, for such ingratitude - and hope - and expect, that my merciful Father will continue his goodness, and grant us in his own good time the wish for blefsing. Your dear Grand-ma'a and I, are continually lamenting Josephs departure to New Orleans—and wonder that he should visit that place at this season—above all others. We had accounts yesterday that the yellow fever had made its appearance there. But I pray heaven, it may not be true. If he should be spared, to return to Cincinnati, pray my dear son, let us know it, as soon as pofsible. You give us some faint hope that we may see your Pa'a in August. O that we may reallize that plea-

sure. Doct Mitchel arrived the first of May, and will again take his departure for Canton, week after next.-He will be absent 18 months The old gentleman has at last given his consent, and the Doct has requested Matilda to be in readiness to be married, immediately after his return. Mr Ralstons family have moved into the country, and have been very particular in their invitations to us to visit them. Particularly Mifs Abby. She came to us, last Sunday, Just as we were going into church, with all the sweetness of Elizabeth—in her countenance and beg'd Eliza and I, to come out and see them - observing they were now settled and should depend on seeing us. Mrs Dorsey and Sarah, returnd from Albany last week. Mrs D-s health much improved. I presume you have heard of Mrs Physicks death. She was Ill but ten days. Mrs Price, who lived next door to her — told me that when she found Mrs Physick was dangerous, she askd her, if she wish^d to see her husband. She reply^d—if he wishes to see me — I should like to see him. I am going — and wish well to every human being. Mrs Price instantly sent for the Doctr'' who had not seen her since the seperation. He came — went to the bed side — took her hand but her eves were closed in death. He order the corps to be removed at his house — put into Ice — and kept two days. A very large funeral. The children were with her from her first indisposition. Mrs Price told me she was astonish to hear the conversation of the two little boys. A little younger than Arthur & Winthrop. The oldest stood at the bed side. & like his father — never shed a tear. Said Mrs Price, do you think my mother is dying? How long will she live. Wont she speak again? Will she be dead at 10 o'clock? The youngest cryd as if his heart would break. Said Mrs Price pray do something to save my mother. She must^{nt} die. What shall I do without her. She has been a good mother to me. & if she dies. I cannot live. O save her Doct Monger—save my mo-

¹ Dr. Phillip Syng Physick was an eminent surgeon of Philadelphia. He was successor in the chair of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, to Dr. Dorsey, whose death has been mentioned. He married, in 1800, Miss Emlen of Burlington, N. J., and was elected a member of the French Royal Academy of Medicine in 1825.

ther. Your friend M^{rs} Sands is still in town—and often enquires for you, with Affection. M^{rs} Hodgdon's family—as usual. Let's than half an hour after we heard of our friends death—the Major came in, with a view to congratulate us, on the event—and had the impudence to say to your Grandma'a well you have got red of a great deal of trouble—we doubt not that he rejoiced at the event. As usual for Philadelphia—two ladies are selected for Doct^r P——M^{rs} D—y and Mifs Sally Bayard.

I wish my dear son, you could hear your sister play on the harp, I think you would be pleased with her musick. If kind Providence should return my dear son Joseph, tell him to come home and rest. Tell my beloved husband I have commenced another Journal beginning with 4th July. The family all unite with me in tenderest affection to you all. The little boys begin to talk about August holy days—with much interest. Take good care of your health—dont expose yourself to damp evenings—and love your ever Affectionate Mother

H G

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth H. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Cincinnati 11th July 1820

Your letter, My dear Daughter, of the 19th ult came in due course of the Mail, & has afforded me much pleasure & satisfaction. When One is far removed from a beloved home, nothing is so delightful, as well written family letters.— From Joseph I have not yet received any intelligence, & I shall feel extremely anxious for his safety until he returns. Robert left me this morning & is to be absent four or five days. He is on a tour to a neighbouring Wateringplace in Kentucky; with a party of fifteen Young Ladies & Gentlemen, from this Town. He has become a great favourite, and some of the Belles (I think) would be glad to detain him here for life. You cannot, My dear Daughter, feel more anxious, for my return, than I do; but it seems as if my exile was yet to be of long continuance.

You must have had a very pleasant party at Mr Ral-

stons with M^{rs} Sands &c. M^r Dwight's character I recollect. He is no doubt a very good & a very examplary young man. Young Gentlemen, however, from Connecticutt, of that cast of character are apt to lay claims to

infallibility.

The conversation You had with Mifs A. R — respecting a Young Lady of your acquaintance, leads me to suppose that you are on more free terms than formerly. In the main, I coincide with her opinions; as delicacy & refinement are indispensably necessary to make a pleasing companion. It seems the Brother is exempted from the charges brought against the Younger Sister. I have always heard him spoken of in terms of great respect. -It is unfortunate for the Young Lady that she suffers her gaiety to blind her judgment. To me, it would be a source of deep humiliation if a Daughter should ever be so familiar as to render it necessary to chide a Gentleman for rudeness: but to say "Paws off" is the essence of vulgarity and low breeding. So You have had a pleasant party of Religious characters at the House. I am glad that Mr Marston was there, as the duty of reciprocating the civilities of strangers, ought never to be neglected.

I notice your observations respecting the celebrated singer M^r Adcock. I cannot say that I feel the slightest interest, whether he settles in Philad^a or the Moon. The man who can so far forget the character of a Gentleman, as to make a bet on winning the affections of a Young Lady, to whom he felt not the slightest attachment: ought not to receive the countenance or support of decent People, who respect themselves. I was much pleased with Roberts friend M^r Guest. By this time I presume he has

arrived, where I passionately long to be.

It is pleasing to learn that Mifs Rufsell has returned with the same easy, unaffected manners. I wish you, My dear Daughter, not to give up your lefsons on the Harp, & if it be deemed best to suspend them during the Warm season, I hope you will renew the business in Autumn: & by that time I hope we shall be able to procure you one of English Manufacture.

I shall expect to find you mistrefs of Fosters efsay on

decision of character, & well versed in Humes History of England, Marshalls Life of Washington, Gibbons History of the decline of the Roman Empire. Your time is now precious, & it is all important to lay up a good store of intellectual treasure.

Before this arrives I trust you will have had a melancholy meeting with M^{rs} Sargent, & M^{rs} & M^r Thompson. I was much surprised that the distrefsing news had not reached Philad^a when your Brother's last (received) Letter was written, 26th ul^t—The eastern Mail arrives this evening & I promise myself the inexprefsible pleasure of a Letter from Your dear Mother. On the other page is a line for Benjamin. By this Mail I send My beloved Mother three newspapers. I wrote to Her the 6th ins'. Your affec^e Parent Benjⁿ Ives Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman jr. to Chandler R. Gilman, at Harvard College.¹

Dear Chandler

I have today received your letter of 18th giving an account of the suspension of three of your classmates. Altho' it is unpleasant for the class generally, & to the parents of the young men in particular, to have them disgraced, in my opinion the circumstances of the class required their suspension. I do not see the propriety of going to Neponset. If a supper was to be had, why not have it in Town, & get the permission of the Government? If the Government would not give this permission, why have any supper? Young men, when they enter College, must know they are to be governed by the College rules; they ought to know also that they owe a debt of gratitude to their Instructors—at all events, sufficient to make them overlook a little infirmity. I don't see any thing in your conduct, so far as made known to me, that is out of the way, or that will endanger your stay at College. If the whole class went to Neponset, you could not well stay back. It is always best to take a silent part on these occa-

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

sions; if possible, to prevent them. It would be a most wild thing if your class as a body should pretend to resent the conduct of the Government. They would all either agree to go off, or be ordered off by Gov^t unlefs they made a humble apology. If it should so result, you may depend upon it that 4/5ths of the class would return with a humble apology. This is the uniform way affrays of this kind terminate; Therefore You had better by all means Keep yourselves quiet. To be suspended is disgraceful under any circumstances, yet a young man may be disgraced by suspension in a wanton, cruel manner, so that the sympathies of his friends will all be with him; nevertheless it will be a disgrace to him that he has been sent away from College, and he will always think so in after life. I can assure you that nothing would mortify your Father more than to hear that you had been suspended. You must therefore "Keep yourself to yourself" as much as possible, and prevent, if you can, anything like opposition to the authority of the College. If you want a friend to go in Boston, & to let the Government know that you have friends, I can easily procure you a letter to Col. Israel Thorndike who will advise you as a Father. Also to Mr Gray. You must spend part of your vacation with Mr Ives. If you were to express a wish to Mrs Ives or Mr Ives—to be made acquainted with Mr Thorndike, they would give you a letter that would go a great way with Mr T. If you would prefer my giving one, I can do it with freedom. I have not the pleasure of personal acquaintance with Col. T. altho' I have corresponded with him. He is acquainted with our family, as is also Mr Gray. You must write to me soon again. You must not do anything that will cause yr. being sent off. You would regret it to the last day of your life. If Mr Thompson should be at Cambridge, you would find him as friendly as a parent to you. He is also a man of excellent judgement—You could speak to him with the freedom you would to me-Yrs truly B. I. G. J^r.

Philada Aug. 22d 1820

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In 1822 Mrs. Miller visited her family, which now included Chandler, who was studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Apparently Mr. Gilman had also been at home and he now, accompanied by his two daughters, Rebecca and Eliza and his son Arthur, sixteen years old, was returning to Marietta.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth H. Gilman, Cin-

cinnati, Ohio.

Philadelphia March 2^d 1822

As your dear Grand-ma passes this day with Mrs Sargent, and I am intirely alone, I will devote a part of it to you my dear Eliza, and reply to your very interesting letter, written in Co with your Pa'a. First let me tell you that I never received a letter from you, with more heartfelt pleasure and satisfaction. Last Monday, we recd a line from your dear Pa'a by Mr Ville, dated Wednesday evening - saving you were all well, except Rebecca, who had the sciatica. This inteligence fill us all with a thousand fears. I was sure it had terminated in Pleurisy. My immagination was very busy, painting your distress situation, at a publick tavern, in the mountains and without medical aid .- Thus we remaind, until tuesday, evening when we were reliev by the receipt of your kind letter. O may I never forget this repeated instance of divine goodness - and may you my dear children, never forget your dependance on that merciful being, who has protected and preserved you all, thus far, through this dangerous Journey. We should not have remaind so long in suspence, if Mr Freeman, who arrived in season, had not forgotten to deliver the message sent by your Pa'a. I suppose he was so happy to find himself at home - that his thoughts were wholly occupied with his own family. Your friends and acquaintances were very anxious for your safety - and particularly for your sister, whose health they observed appeard extremely delicate. Mrs Huntingdon and sister calld - Mrs Williams, Mrs Haskins — Mrs Hulings — the Mifs Jaudon's and a number of gentlemen calla at the store, to make inquiries—and express great anxiety for your fate. Tis said there never was known in this country such a storm as that on the day you left us—follow by such a dreadful fresh. I think you may conclude that you have many very valuable friends in this city. On Saturday last, tell your Pa'a I began my correspondence with Arthur, as he requested. I mention^d M^r Lambden's arrival. dined with us, and we are much pleasd with him. I believe he will go this evening with Benjⁿ, to Doct Hare's lecture. Your Grand-ma'a regrets that you are not with us, at this time, as Mr L is very fond of musick.—I am rather disappointed in his looks—he is much larger than I expected—and more mild in his manners and conversation. I think they are all well calculated to do business together. Your friend Sarah Cox calld to see us on monday, and introduced her husband. She did not know you had accompanied your Pa'a and sister. She express^d much surprize, but on the whole, thought it a good plan. He is quite agreeable, and his manners rather pleasing. She told me they should go home, in six weeks. Invited me to come & see her and said she should always be happy to visit us. Your Grandma'a was charmd with her—and I never saw her look so well. Last tuesday the doctr was making great preparations for the evening which he pass at the beautiful Ellins ball. Between 150 and 200 were present. Cold collation—band of musick &c &c in high style—and in all his life, he never spent so happy an evening. Wednesday evening he was at a splendid ball at Mrs Crothers. Your friend Maria heard he was going—and as none of her brothers had an invitation she requested he would go with her and Eand he did and saw them safely home. Thursday evening the Doct was invited to Miss Jaudon's party, and went. Friday my dear Rebecca, we were again made happy by your kind and very interesting letter dated at Pittsburgh. I have follow you, my dear ones, in immagination, through all your difficulties—and am happy to hear that you have at length arrived in Pittsburgh.—We shall all anticipate soon receiving a line from some of you.

¹ The entire family called Chandler R. Gilman "the doctor" from the time he began studying medicine and in later life he was always "Uncle Doctor" to the younger generation.

anouncing your arrival at Cincinnati. I think you must have a pleasant voyage down the river, for there you can rest.—I feel anxious now, about your dear Pa'a. I dont like to hear that he complains of being uncommonly fatigued, and fear he is going to be sick. Hope you will all write, as often as pofsible,—It gives me singular pleasure, to hear that the dear little ones, perform the Journey so well. Kifs them a thousand times dear Rebecca for me, and never let them forget me. O—that

thought.

While I am now writing, Mr R H Ives has Just arrived from Baltimore. He looks finely—& made many enquiries about my beloved absent family—& was quite astonished, that Eliza was gone. Benji wrote your Pa'a the 27th Feby, and enclosed a letter. Also 1st March.— Chandler's lectures are over—and he is busy with his notes. Doct Parrishs spring course, begins next monday. Winthrop is very studious as usual, and begs me to tell Pa'a he has been at the head of his class all this week. Mrs Hodge call yesterday to see us—and told me that William would probably be married very soon. Yesterday I thought I would make my appearance in the street, & call on Matilda. I drefs^d myself, came down, & open^d the front door, & found her and the doctor on the steps coming to see me. She lookd extremely well. She says every time her brother comes to see them he says O how cosy you look. I really must be married.—Winta who is now at my side, sends love.—Remember me Affectionately to your dear Pa'a & Arthur—take good care of your Pa'a—and when you write, say something about Joseph and Robert.—Heaven blefs you my dear children from your ever Affectionate mother H Gilman -

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Chandler R. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.²

[1822]

Dear Chandler

Last evening I received your kind letter of the 12th

¹ Mrs. Miller's two daughters. Elizabeth and Jane, the eldest about three.

² MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

June and I cannot give you a more convincing proof of the great pleasure it gave me than by answering it so soon. Whenever you will be so charitable as to send me a letter if it will be any inducement for you to write frequently, I will promise to give your letters always a speedy response. My last letter from Philadelphia (before the receipt of yours) was from Ma'a — it contained information of a nature to excite great anxiety in my mind and I hoped to hear again in a few days, but day after day succeeded each other and for 7 weeks I received not a line—you can easily imagine then the pleasure your letter gave me. You write in such fine spirits too, that it seem'd to give me new life to read it. I can go along very comfortably if I hear from home once in 3 or even 4 weeks, but when the family are silent a longer time than that, I am unhappy and cannot divest myself of fears for your health and lives. When my dear Father left me he told me I might expect Joseph in about 20 days and we have been looking for him for three or four weeks past & cannot imagine what keeps him so long at Louisville. It will be a sad disappointment to us if he does not descend the river, and should he pass Natchez without giving us a call I shall scarcely forgive him. I suppose Eliza and Arthur [torn] Eliza not long since, and I hope to have the pleasure of getting a letter from her in a few days. When there are so Many in our family to write, it is rather mortifying to me that my own epistles are more frequent than all yours. If Winty (as Elizabeth continues to call him) would take his turn to write I would be much obliged to him. You speak of your "late trip to the west" but you do not say particularly where you have been. Neither do you tell me the name of the young lady who pleased you so much, who "is lovely" and whom "you love". Perhaps you only mean, however, west of the Schuylkill. Ah! Doctor, I strongly suspect "the arrows of Cupid will disorganize" your "Brain" now in good earnest. I never thought there was much danger to apprehend from the beautiful Ellen; yours was "a careless, careless love", but now that you kneel at the shrine of one whom you describe as amiable, sensible, fond of books &c, &c, and "pretty, quite pretty", I consider you

as in perilous situation and if I mistake not you will now be obliged to surrender and "own the force of female charms" or rather female excellence. But even should this be true I suppose you will not confess it and I am prepared to see myself call'd in your next letter a false prophetels. But time I suppose will make manifest. You say you fear Mr. Miller will become too much attached to Lebanon to leave it for Longue Vue but I do not think we need fear that for altho Lebanon is a sweet place and we wish to live here while we remain in this country, yet Mr. Miller will gladly leave it as soon as his fortune is made — to settle nearer the family. You used yourself to speak of living in this part of the world—but I suppose from your last letter that you have abandoned the idea. I can easily account for the change, and why you should wish to settle in or near Philadelphia. How would you like to settle at Hamilton? I have not been to town since I wrote last, Mr. Miller has. Our friends there were well. He did not see Mrs. Thompson as she was

taking an airing in the barouche.

The weather has been so warm I have been afraid to venture to town as I promised Mrs. T. I intend to send for her and her children shortly to pass some time at Lebanon. Tell Eliza our figs are now ripe but the pomegranate trees are just in blossom. I think it probable that little one in Phila. will bear fruit this summer or next, as the tree bears when quite young, but she must keep the frost from the tender ends of the branches as the fruit grows on the point of the branches. We are all well at Lebanon. Elizabeth and Jane are equally beautiful; I don't percieve any superiority in either; of course Jane has improved since you saw her. She is nearly twice her former size; has a fine animated countenance, handsome black eyes and beautiful arched eye-brows. Elizabeth has increased considerably in statue and (let me add comeliness) as to wisdom she has I believe as much as children generally possefs at her age. Her Pa'a is teaching her the alphabet. I have not yet commenced teaching her the Assembly Catechism, but I sometimes ask her what did Grandma'a sew for you? She answers "night gown". "Who sent Prince to buy gingerbread

for you? "Old Grandma'a." "What does Grandpa'a say?" "Let me rub you with my beard". "Who calls you good girl?" "Uncle Ben". "Who wears spectacles?" "Uncle Doccer" "Who's a good boy?" "Winty" "What does Aunt Eliza say?" "Jenny Cuckoo" "What does Uncle Bob say?" "Where's my pet" &c, &c.

But I forget myself & you will exclaim "Maternal vanity" Give my love to all relations & friends. M' Miller

sends his regards to yourself & all the family -

From your affect^e sister Rebecca

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. John S. Miller, Lebanon, Miss.¹

Philadelphia October 26th 1822

I believe my dear Rebecca, that the last letter I sent you was dated about the 1st of this month. As you will probably wish to hear particularly, I have bought a folio sheet, and shall transcribe my Journal to your dear Pa'a, for your amusement. [sic] Monday 7th inst. Mrs Flood and Mrs Hulings calld here and said they had Just left Mrs Sargents, and was told that W^m was dangerously sick. Your Grand-ma went immediately up, and found him very low and her overwhelm^d with grief. Eliza has been there for ten days past, night and day. Tuesday he was very low, and the Doctr orderd a blister on his stomach. He opposed it, with all the strength he had, until Doctr Chapman told him if he did not submit, his life would be sacrificed. Wednesday he was not expected to live through the day. Arthur went up in the evening and offer his services. Benjⁿ had offer to watch with him the night before, and they express their thanks, but said he could not have any one in the chamber, but his mother, E, & Sophia. Thursday Ma'am sent to see how he was, and received intelligence that he was alive, & that was all. After breakfast Ma'am went up and pass the day. Just rec^d a letter from Mifs Ogden, in reply to one I wrote her, by Benj^{ns} particular request, to know the situation of

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

Hope who went some time since, with her Parents and brother Robt to Niagara, Lebanon springs &c—and was taken sick with a fever, and for several days they dispair of her life. Mifs Ogden remark that Mrs Goddard's anxiety was so great, that she left Providence with her husband & danghter & passed some days with the family, at Lebanon springs, until Hope had so far recover'd as to ride one mile. Mr Ives's health was very much improved by the Journey, but poor Charlotte's is very miserable. Wednesday 9th Benja pafsd last evening at Mrs Sargents, and says Wm is much better. Mr Hutchins who came from Boston with them, & resides there, is under Dr Physick's care for a complaint in his hip, similar to Andrew Hodge's. told him that Wm was so well yesterday, as to ask Dr Chapman if he thought he would be well enough to go to New Orleans in the Swan, which sails next week. Thursday 17th This morning Mrs Sargent sent for Ma'am to come up their, Wm was worse. Chandler went soon after to offer his services — as Washington went to Long Vue this morning. But he had return'd. I requested your Grand-ma'a to tell Mrs Sargent if I could be of any service to her, to let me know. About [torn] o clock she sent for me to come up as quick as I could, for her son was dying. I went, and was met at the door by Mariann, who told me to walk up stairs. I went first into the chamber Mrs Sargents where my poor child lay on the bed in the greatest distress immaginable. Mrs S was in the chamber walking — & wringing her hands in an agony of grief. Washington soon came in, and said O Mrs Gilman, come in the other chamber, and see my poor brother before he dies. I aska if he was sensible, he said no. I went and saw Wm, in the agonies of death. His eyes were shut, & his face in high colour, with fever. I never saw him look so well. I went back to E-and try'd by the most soothing expressions to comfort her, but in vain. Mrs Sargent sent for Mr Chauncy, and he came. He was very much Affected, and remaind some time. At half past five o clock, his soul left a body of suffering, and took its flight. Your Grand-ma'a came in to Eliza's chamber, and said, he is gone. She sprang off the bed, and insisted on going to see him—he was not

dead—O 'twas impossible. After they were gone, it was thought best that she should see him. I led her to the door, and she broke from me, and ran to the body, put her face to him, and was perfectly still, until we forcd her from him. She was quite wild, constantly repeating is it possible—is he dead? O what will become of me. Do you love me, Ma'a? Does Pa'a love me? O my brothers—they dont love me. O I shall be an outcast &c-I gave her a large dose of Parigorick, put her to bed, set by her, and try^d all in my power to comfort her, and compose her mind. Your Grand-ma'a, who now does good. Sleeps with her, and as it was very late, she thought I had best return home. I must tell you he lamented his past life, and particularly his treatment to his Mother. And beg'd that the Lord would spare him, that the world might be convinced there was a total change in him. Friday morning, I went up Mrs S and your poor sister was inconsolable. Washington behaved extremely well, he was very much affected—but it was evident that he struggled hard, to appear as he did. He was all day, going first to his mother, and then to Eliza, to sooth and comfort them. Mrs S requested me to send for a mantua maker, and have every article of drefs made for E— of deep mourning. Mr Chauncy had the direction of every thing. Unfortunately the day before, when W^m S was thought much better Benjn took a Journey to Wilkesbarre and was absent a week. The members of the Cincinnati society were not invited to the funeral, neither was his death mentioned in the papers. When he was laid out he was put into a box of Ice, that he might retain his looks. On Saturday morning [he] was taken out and laid in his coffin, which was covered with black broadcloth, bound with silver, with large silver plates on the sides and breast, noting his age &c and lined with white silk. Those who were invited assembled at the house, at 3 oclock. Winthrop and I, went up at 1/2 past two, As soon as we open Mrs S-s chamber door, [wh]ere were Ma'am and E— when Mrs S saw Winthrop, she screamed so as to be heard all over the house. And said O my God - this is all that is left of the name. I told him to go down.—She caught hold of him and said no no. I

love him more than ever. But Winthrop was so much affected and frightened—that as soon as he could, I told him to go down. Eliza could never shed a tear, until this moment. And from the time he died, until now — I had serious apprehensions that she would be deranged. Just after dinner, Mrs S received a letter from Boston, with information of the death of Mr Fitz William Sargent's Mrs Williams father. He died with gout in his stomach. At any other time this would have been a severe stroke, for she was very much attached to that brother. Eliza was so much distrefs^d, and so debilitated, that it was thought best that she — Mrs S — & your Grand-ma'a, should shut themselves up in the chamber, and not be seen, by any person, and I go down & see that every thing was properly arranged. I went into the back parlour, where all the friends of the Gov^r—and acquaintances of the family, afsembled. As soon as Chandler, Arthur and Winthrop came—their hats were taken into the little back parlour, where we used to dine, where was a woman, who put a long black crape and pair of gloves in each hat. I ask^d Chand^r if they did not wish to see the corpse, as it was the most natural one, I ever saw. There was no appearance of death, his countenance was the same, only pale—his cravat was put on exactly as in health, his hair lookd as usual — & his face mild and pleasant, as if sweetly asleep.—When we enter the chamber, Mr Chauncy stood alone—at the foot of the coffin—looking at it weeping—as if reflecting on the late similar situation of his beloved, & ever to be lamented wife. As we advanced to the coffin, he started—awoke from his dream, and left the room. Soon after we went down, the coffin was put into the hearse, and it move'd slowly along to the place appointed, corner of arch—& fifth St. The ladies all rode. Next the hearse, Mrs I B Wallace - Mrs Hulings and myself, followed by other carriages fill'd with ladies. The procession at the side. First six Episcopal clergymen—then Mr Chauncy and Washington—next Chandr

¹ Fitz William Sargent, Governor Winthrop Sargent's brother, married Nancy Parsons and had a son, Winthrop, and a daughter, Judith, who married (1) David Williams, who died before 1824. Mr. Fitz William Sargent died October 6, 1822.

Arthur & Winthrop—follow by gentlemen. When we arrived at the place appointed for all the living—the coffin was taken from the hearse, by young men hired for the purpose. Mr C & Washington—Chandr & myself— Arthur, Winthrop follow by acquaintances. Doct Abercrombie perform'd at the grave, in a very impressive manner. As the coffin was let down — Washington started — & was so overcome as not to be able to walk to the carriage without the assistance of two. No one return to the house, but myself. When E saw me - she scream, & went into a fainting fit—which lasted near an hour. When she revived — she was calm — but totally indifferent to herself—& every one around her. I gave her a large dose of laudanum—undressd her, put her in bed— & would have staid all night—but your Grand-ma'a thought better return to the family. Next morning— Sunday — they were more calm Mrs S wished the prayers of the church, & she sent a note to St James E begd I would copy it, & send [it to our] church - for said she, I feel as if I needed the pray [ers of] all christians. No name was mention^d only a bereaved family. When I came out of church I was surrounded by her acquaintances & mine, to enquire for her—knowing that she was to have been married, the day he died. Dr Chapman told him two days before he died — that he was so well, he might soon ride out. W^m was so much delighted, that he could talk of nothing else. The next day he ask the Dr if he might get up. He replied no sir - you must not get out of your bed. He then saw the deception—& burst into tears. And from that time, he gave up all hopes of living. Your poor sister, says, O ma'a—my fair prospects my dreams of happiness, are all blasted in a moment. But O he told me he should die — & I did not believe him. He told me he should not live—as he hop'd—& pravd to—to convince the world there was a total change in him — & to reward me for all my kind attentions to him but there—said he—God will reward you. He said— O if I could only recall the three last years of my life. Then pray most fervently that God would pardon the sins of his past life—and grant him mercy. Let us my dear children, throw the veil of charity over their faults,

and take the poor afflicted child to our bosom—who is bourn down with sorrow. The family are well. Benj^a has concluded to go to Louisville with Joseph—to leave us 10th Nov^r—to be absent 60 days. Pa'a expected here in two weeks. Love to dear M^r M—Kifs my little darlings for your ever Affectionate Mother — H G.

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.¹

Lebanon, Nov. 28th, 1822.

My dear Mother:

Since the receipt of Joseph's letter by which we learnt the melancholy tidings of the death of William Sargent. we have been exceedingly anxious to hear particularly from Philadelphia and my distress for my beloved and afflicted sister has been very great. I thank you for so kindly anticipating our wishes by writing so particularly on the same subject. This is indeed a heavy stroke for Mrs. Sargent and for our dear Eliza but she must recollect that it is the Lord's hand and may she yet have reason to say—"it is good for me that I have been afflicted. The account of his last moments is indeed very affecting. It must be a great consolation to his friends that he was so patient and that he sought so earnestly to make his peace with his God with prayers and tears. Our compassionate Redeemer has assured us that sinners are sometimes accepted even at the eleventh hour, and I think we have every reason to hope the patient son of Mrs. Sargent is now far happier than he could have been had he lived. I am sure this thought ought to make our dear Eliza resigned and cheerful. O why cannot we always remember the frailty and uncertainty of life!! How prone are we to forget that we are every hour liable to be called into eternity, till the Almighty in his mercy, not willing that we should perish, reminds us by some stroke of Providence, by bringing us, ourselves, to the brink of the grave or by taking from us some dear friend, that we are pilgrims here and that we ought also to be ready.

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

When Mr. Miller received Joseph's letter he was on his way to Natchez. He went immediately to Mr. Thompson's and informed him of its contents and left him to communicate the melancholy news to Mrs. Thompson and Mr. James Williams. Mr. Miller was obliged to go to town again last week to attend court all the week as a juror. As one of our Dearborn horses was sick I could not go with him but had a young lady (a Miss Wells) to stay with me till his return. He took tea one evening at Mr. Thompson's, whose family was well, but Mrs. T. much affected with the death of her brother. She said she had not yet heard any particulars and was very anxious to see me. If our horse is well enough we propose going to town Saturday next to attend church with Mrs. Thompson on Sunday and visit James Williams' family on Monday. I shall take your letter as I think it shall be gratifying to them to hear your part of it. I have been flattering myself that when dear Papa returned to Phila, he would come via. Natchez but I find by a letter which I received from him dated 27th October, that he returned across the mountains and I presume he will be at home long ere this reaches you! It would be very gratifying to us to be with you at this time. If I could be with my sister only for a short time. I think I could show her how much I sympathized with her. I hope you will write often dear Ma'a; your letters afford me the greatest satisfaction. We shall begin to expect Robert shortly now. Sometime ago when Mr. Miller was in town he mentioned to Mr. Thompson that he had a little money to send Benjamin and asked his advise; what sort of bills to put it in. Mr. T. observed there was a good deal of risk in sending by mail, that he had some money for Robert but as it was not as much as he (Robert) would expect, Mr. Miller had better keep Benj's till Robert came and then give it to him, which Mr. M. will do. From what we can learn. Mr. T's affairs are in a bad way. Mr. Tichenor told Mr. M. he feared he would have to make some sacrifices. His crop was somewhat injured by the rot, and cotton is now down to 141/2.

Our family is well. If we go to town Saturday we shall take the children with us. Mr. Miller joins me in most

affectionate rememberances to every member of the

family.

From your affectionate daughter Rebecca Please not to show this letter to anyone but Eliza. P. S.—Friday eve. Nov. 29th—I have not had an opportunity dear Ma'a of sending this to the postoffice, therefore shall take it in tomorrow myself, if nothing prevents, as we expect to go to town as I before mentioned. Hope shall have a letter from Chandler before we return home. All well. Your R. I. M.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. John S. Miller, Lebanon, Miss.¹

P S—Your Pa'a wrote you on Wednesday 21st inst.

Philadelphia May 26th monday morn⁸ 1823

It is a long time my dear Rebecca, since I wrote you, and a long time since I had the pleasure of receiving a line from you. We have endeavour'd to apprize you as often as we could of the situation of your dear departed Grand-ma'a, and told you from time to time Just how she was, and that in all probability she could not live many days. She has been confined to her bed four months, and to her chamber since Nov last. Her sufferings were great indeed, but she bore them with patience, and resignation. She would often in her paroxysm's of distrefs, say "O my heavenly father, if it be possible mitigate my sufferings. "O that I might have an easy passage.—She never expected to see you, nor Joseph. But as we were expecting Benjamin—she often said "I hope I shall be spared to see Benjⁿ—But she was not. She grew weaker, until last Tuesday morning 20th inst at 1/2 past six o clock, when her spirit took its flight, we humbly hope to mansions of everlasting rest. For about two weeks before her death, she said but little. Your Pa'a — Chandler — and myself set up with her, the night previous to her dissolution,—she was all the night in great distrefs. every breath was with a groan. About one o clock she

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

look at me, and said "O Hannah - which were the last words that she ever utter'd. Five minutes before she died, your Pa'a took her hand - and she turn'd her eyes up—as if in prayer. Then fastened her eyes on him, with such a look so full of expression—as he never will forget — and instantly her eyes closed in death. I sent immediately for Mrs Hodgdon, she came and with Ann's assistance (the girl who lives with me) did everything for her that was necessary to be done. I shall never forget her kindness. We had a coffin made, that forenoon, and before night, she was so much alterd, that it was necefsary to close her from our view forever. Wednesday afternoon at 4 o clock, she was inter'd in the upper burying ground, belonging to Arch St church, at the corner of 5th St and Noble St. 1½ miles from our house. Mr Robert Ralston — Mr Alexander Henry — Mr Thomas Latimer and M^r Benson, were Pall bearers. The corps was carried in a Hearse. The first carriage contain'd your Mother — Mrs Ammidon — Mrs Latimer — and Mrs Hodgdon. The others were filld with ladies of the Methodist denomination. Your Pa'a and Chandler walkd together, Arthur & Winthrop, Mr Ammidon & Coll Hodgdon walkd as mourners—and Washington & George Russell. Your dear sister was on a bed of sickness, at Mrs Sargents. She has been at home all winter, and almost restored to her former health. About three weeks since, she wanted to purchase some little matters, and walk down 2d St, a very pleasant day—returnd—to appearance well as usual, and said, "I believe I'll go up and see Mrs Sargent, before I take off my bonnet. She went — and about an hour after - Washington came in haste, and desired me to go up with him and see Eliza—she was taken suddenly very sick. Your dear Grand-ma'a was then so low, that we did not expect her life from morning to night. I went and found her very much distress for breath high fever—and every symptom of Pleurisy—which finally terminated in that disorder. Mrs Sargent sent for Dr Deweese her Physician, and he bleed her, very copiously.— Next day the pain in her side increased with difficulty of breathing—and violent cough. Bleeding was repeated three times in 24 hours — with blister upon blis-

ter. And now through the goodness of God, she has recover so far as to be brought home the day before yesterday. She is still very weak—and much emaciated, but begins to have an appetite, and I hope with good nursing, she will soon be able to be about house. Your Brother Rob^t return^d about six weeks since from the western country. Remain at home three weeks, and then went to Boston, with a hope that your Grandma'a would be better, when he return. I do not recollect that she mention a hope of seeing him again - and I believe she did not expect it. Your Pa'a has written a letter to him to be left at N York, that he may know the situation of the family, before he returns. Last week, we rec^d a letter from Benjⁿ, saying he should probably be at home by the 20th of June. We have had trials my dear Rebecca, of various kinds. But on the other hand, we have experienced mercies numerous. The kind care of Providence towards us, has been great. Much greater than we deserve. One generation of our family, has pass away and O let us also prepare to meet those dear ones, who through faith and patience, inherit the promises. Let us try to follow them, as far as they follow Christ.— Wednesday 28th. In consequence of receiving a letter from Robt, your Pa'a thought it his duty to go on and meet him in N York on his return home. He accordingly left us yesterday at 12 o clk, & is now I hope in N York. We shall expect them on friday next. Robert has had an offer to go into business there with Alexander McTeir. But this you must not mention, as we do not know that he will accept. It seems that old M^r B——¹ is as much opposed as ever. Rob savs his principle objection is now a fear that he is concern'd in the failure of G & A — and B I G Jr - Mary is as firm as a rock. She says she is ready to leave all her friends, the moment that Rob' has sufficient to maintain a family. She would not like to live [in Bos]ton, if she could. She says her friends have treeted [her in] a manner, that she will never live where she will [have] similar mortifications. When he returns I shall know more of the matter, and will write you again, on this subject. Mrs Sargent is still con-

¹ William Bordman, of Boston.

fined to her bed, totally destitute of the power of helping herself—or even feeding herself. Dr Deweese calls it Rhumatism—but I am afraid it is something that she will never get rid of. Mr & Mrs Urquart, with their numerous family are with her. Washington keeps much at Long Vue - where he passes all his nights. - I forgot whether I mentiond to you in a former letter that when your Pa'a return^d from the western country, Mrs S told your Grand-ma'a that she never wish to see anyone that had been opposed to her departed son. Of course he has never seen her since. Before Mrs U arrived, your Grandma'a said she hoped he would call on Mr U—as our family had rec^d such friendly attentions from them at N O. Wholly I believe on that account, he call on Mr U the day before he went to N York. Yesterday Mr U returnd the call, Mrs S appears as friendly to me—& always has, since that event. As ever she was before. M' U told me the family would visit me with much pleasure. Present me with great Affection to dear M' M kifs my sweet ones for me — & write soon to your ever Affecte mother

HG.

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The Rob Roy was owned by a stock company, largely made up by members of the family and great hopes were entertained of her as a paying investment from the success of her first voyage down the river. She lasted for only a few years and is listed as "worn out" in 1829, in Hall's Statistics of the West at the Close of the year 1836. But she was probably more or less of a loss before that time, because, as the numbers of the boats increased, freights and passenger rates went down, and it was necessary to offer greater inducements to shippers. Hall says, "The stock invested in boats was, as a general rule, a losing investment. . . A few instances in which large profits were realized, induced a great number of individuals to embark in this business, and the tonnage has always been greater than the trade demanded. As

the boat was not expected to last more than four or five years, at best, and would probably be burnt, blown up or sunk, within that period . . . boats were slightly and hastily built."

It is not necessary for us to believe that Mr. Gilman's boat was not well built, to account for the short life of the Rob Roy. Every engine was, to some extent, an experiment at that time, and the wear and tear to a river boat, from Mr. Hall's figures, must have been enormous. Speaking of sixty-six boats that went out of service in two years, he says: "Fifteen were abandoned. . . seven were lost by ice, fifteen were burnt, twenty-four snagged, and five destroyed by being struck by other boats." It was a most uncertain business, although it seems to have excited lively anticipations on the part of Mr. Gilman's family.

Joseph Gilman to Benj. Ives Gilman.

On board Steam Boat "Rob Roy"

My Dear Father. New Orleans, June 4' 1823 We arrived here this morning, in 5 1/2 days from Shippingport. We have a full freight down: flour at 65 cents and Lard at 40 cents per hundred grofs. We had 12 Cabin passengers, a very pleasant party, and every body delighted with "Rob Roy". We passed Natchez at 3 oclock in the morning, so I had no opportunity of hearing from Rebecca. It is our present intention to leave this, on the 15th Inst. In case I cannot get my Tobacco shipped by the 15th, Capt. Pierce, I think, would wait one or two days for me. Capt. Pierce has just recd from Mr Dorsey, the Carpet which you sent. It is in perfect order, and the Capt, is delighted with it, Capt. Pierce has just set down opposite me, and says, "tell your Father that Rob Roy is now on her four voyage, without the slightest injury, or detention. And has never touched the ground vet."

Mr. Dorsey has just notifyed me that the Ohio was on the point of sailing. And Capt Pierce wishes me to say

that this short notice, is the reason he does not write you. But he will, by the next vessel.

The nett proceeds of the last voyage were \$3200.— Tho. Wilson & Co had not sold any of my Tobacco, the 29th of March last. I shall now ship one cargo, only, to

London, and the rest to Liverpool.

Shall write you again in a few days. Flour, today, is up to \$5 50/100 and Whiskey 35 @ 37 cents. Tobacco, too, is improving. The very finest at \$4, common first rate \$

Four gentlemen were on board within 15 minutes after we landed to secure births. Mr T. M. Bryan & Mr Little of Philad—of the number.

Love to all the Family.

Your affectionate Son Joseph Gilman.

PS

Why didn't you say something more about Mary. I want to know very particularly what effect the letters all had on the "old don". Whether he has had any conversation with Mary on the subject, and what they each said. Do tell me in your next - and always say something of her in all your letters.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to the Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Robbins, Alexandria, D. C.

Philadelphia June 10th 1823

My very dear Brother & Sister,

It is a long time since I wrote you, and a very long time since I [had a] line from you. I have often thought of you and [of] my bro[thers and] as often wish it was in my power to write them the news of my family for months past. But it was not in my power. For months my dear brother, I have been confined to the bed side of our dear departed mother, and every moment—night & day—has been spent in trying to relieve her sufferings. She was confined to her bed—four months—and to her chamber since Nov last. Her sufferings have been great, but she bore them with patience and resignation.1. M^r Burch, her minister, visited her frequently and conversed and pray " with her — to our great satisfaction. Mr Gilman, Chandler and myself, set up with her the night previous to her difsolution. As she had never told us where she wish to be burried — [we thought] best [to bury | her in the methodist burying ground. We accord-[ingly spoke to] her bosom friend Mrs Latimer—and she told us that she had many conversations with Ma'am on this subject — and she had always said it was quite a matter of indifference to her where she was buried. And Mrs L said as we were all Presbyterians she thought we had better put her body where all her children would probably lie. And she was accordingly deposited in that ground. We sent for all her Methodist friends belonging to her Class—and for M' Burch, but he was out of town. We then sent for Doct Sargent as he is call whom I suppose you know—and he was confined with sickness. We then sent for Doct Janeway, who came and officiated at her grave. Poor Eliza was on a bed of sickness at Mrs Sargents. She has been at home all winter, and almost restord to her former health. . . My beloved husband [torn] last week, for Pittsburgh, & Cincinnati. Robert left us yesterday for New York, where he expects to settle, in partnership with Mr Mcteer. Commission businefs. He also expects to be married to Mifs Mary Bordman of Boston, in October next. Joseph & Benjamin are still in the western county. The latter we expect 20th instant. Mr Gilman between us—has made an assignment — our family seem to be broken up and whether he will send for me to reside at Cincinnati, or try to get in some way of business to support us here, is wholly in the hand of Providence. All I can say is— "If thy presence go not with me - carry me not hence," My prayer is, to go no farther from my dear—my beloved brothers. Now I can see them—but if I go there tis probable we shall never meet in this world. Benjⁿ will probably go into business here. Chandler will board

¹ Mrs. GILMAN had a fashion of copying parts of her letters when writing to her different correspondents. Lines are omitted in this letter which are a repetition of that of May 26, 1823.

here (if we go)—& finish his studies. Arthur will go with Eliza & I—& dear Winthrop—my babe will go to N York in Rob's store. Thus you see my dear Brother & sister, the dispensations of Providence towards us—have been various. I can say with the Apostle—we are troubled on every side—yet not distrefs^d—we are perplex^d but not in dispair—persecuted—but not forsaken—cast down—but not destroy^d. Blefsed be the Lord, I know that whom he loveth—he chasteneth—he has brought me nearer to himself, by these Afflictions—for my saviour was never so precious before. If I should go to the western country to reside—I shall try to make you a visit before I go. love to dear Jane & all the family Your truly Affectionate sister H G

After the failure of Gilman & Ammidon the painful separations began which clouded the last years of both husband and wife. It seemed to Mr. GILMAN that the only opportunity for himself and his sons was in the "western country" that Mrs. Gilman so cordially disliked. Joseph, the eldest son, was engaged in the export of tobacco in Kentucky. Benj. Ives, Jr., gradually closed up his independent business in Philadelphia and then went to Terre Haute, Ind. Robert Hale, the next son, had been engaged to Mary Bordman, of Boston, for some time and when he entered the firm of Mactier & Co., of New York, Mr. Bordman permitted them to marry. Chandler R, was still studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and Arthur had an office in Exchange Place, New York. The latter was evidently a victim of tuberculosis, a disease which was then incurable. The youngest son, Winthron Sargent, at that time fifteen years old, was taken into his brother Robert's countinghouse for the first year and later was in the employ of Ebenezer Stevens' Sons, also in New York. He went to his father in the west in 1827.

Mrs. Gilman stayed as much as possible in various

parts of New England and in New York, visiting her family or keeping house with her daughter Elizabeth. Mr. Gilman made her long visits, but spent most of his time in Cincinnati and other western places. His descriptions of the towns he staved in sound very much like those of Mrs. Trollope, the English author, who lived in Cincinnati from 1828 to 1830. She put her experiences into a book called The Domestic Manners of the Americans, which is an unvarnished picture of the hardships that made life in the west unattractive. Cincinnati was a large town and yet Mrs. Trollope says of the house which she rented: "We were soon settled in our new dwelling, which looked neat and comfortable enough, but we speedily found that it was devoid of nearly all the accommodations that Europeans conceive necessary to decency and comfort. No pump, no cistern, no drain of any kind, no dustman's cart, or any other visible means of getting rid of the rubbish. . . I sent for my landlord. . . 'Your help will just have to fix them all into the middle of the street . . . and the pigs soon takes them off. ' ''

Mrs. Gilman was fifty-five at this time and apparently preferred to lead an easier life than seemed possible in the west.

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.¹

Lebanon, June 30th, 1823

My dear Mother:

I have been endeavoring to prepare myself for some weeks past for the melancholy intelligence which was communicated to me by my dear father's letter of the 21st May but I could not hear a confirmation of my fears

¹ Domestic Mann. of the Amer., i, 55.

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

without the keenest grief, and is my beloved grandmother gone forever, and shall I never behold her more? How insupportable would be that thought were it not for a hope beyond the grave! But we are not to "Sorrow even as others which have no hope." She is, we trust, gone to the bosom of her Heavenly Father where she will never more feel sorrow or pain. It will be but a few years at most when we shall be called to follow her and O, may we all meet in the blissful presence of our Redeemer. While we live we can never cease to deplore her loss and her grandchildren will always remember the [with?] tears of gratitude and affection, her tender anxiety for them, the many kindnesses they have always received from her, and the tender affection which she bore them.

[An omitted sentence is referred to in the dedication.] My dear mother do advise me for I have no acquaintance here whose advice I can ask, except Mrs. Titchenor. She encourages me to join the Presbyterian Church in Natchez, but I dare not do it precipitately She also lent me a book when I was last in town, from which I hope I have received some benefit. It is Doddridge's "Rise and Progress of Religion and Soul". If you do not own that book, dear Ma'a I wish you would get it for the children. Mrs. T. also lent me a volume of sermons by Dr. Smith (former President of the College of New Jersey) with which I am much pleased. Mr. Miller, yesterday, read to me the last one; "on the happiness of Good men in a Future State". There is one in the collection on "The Pleasures of Religion" which I am transcribing, and if you have not it I will send it to you for the children to read. Write me soon, dear Mama. Our family is well now, but Elizabeth and Jane have been lately ill with fever in consequence, I believe, of my being too careless of their going in the sun. Rose 1 presented us last week with a fine daughter and Judy 1 expects an addition in her family before long. I fear Joseph has again passed us without calling. If so, I shall be extremely disappointed. I presume dear Papa is now in the Western country. Remember us affectionately to all the family. I am delighted to hear that Eliza is sufficiently re-

¹ These were probably house slaves

covered to return home. From your affectionate daughter, Rebecca.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Robbins, Alexandria, D. C.

Philadelphia Aug^t 1st 1823

Excuse this paper my dear brother and sister—it is all there is in the house. I wrote you a long letter soon after the death of my dear mother—giving you the particulars of her sickness and death, but have not yet had

the pleasure of receiving a reply.

You are not ignorant my dears, of our misfortunes and present situation. Therefore I will not pain ourselves by recapitulating them. Suffice it to say its all perfectly right. I think I can say that I have never had a murmering thought. Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? You know my beloved husband has always had a disposition to return to the western country. And since our misfortunes - he has had an Idea that it was impofsible for him to git into business any where els. Very soon after the death of his mother he went to Cincinnati, and now he thinks it best we should reside there for a few years at least. As the river is so low, tis impossible for me to go until October - therefore instead of taking the house another quarter I have this week concluded to go on to Boston & remain at Peter's till that time. Joseph & Benjⁿ are with their Pa'a, Robert is settled at New York in business with Alex Mactier, & is to take dear Winthrop into his counting house. Robt expects to be married in October, to Mifs Mary Bordman of Boston. Eliza and Arthur will go with me, & return after the marriage with me to Cincinnati. Now the whole purport of this letter is to ask you if you & sister could not make it convenient to come to Boston while I am there, & make a visit. Brother Chandler you know is living in Roxbury and if you will go, we I hope will have a pleasant visit, & return together. We have sold all our furniture - & I am now siting on a trunk, surrounded with straw.—We

¹ Dr. Peter G. Robbins was now a practicing physician at Roxbury.

propose leaving this city tomorrow morning at 6 o clk. I wish you to write immediately to me & direct at Roxbury. If any thing in the family should prevent your coming, I shall try when I return in Oct^r, to make you a visit before I go—or rather go by way of Baltimore, & see you at your own house. Love to dear Jane, and all the others, & believe me in haste your ever affectionate sister

H Gilman

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Elizabeth H. Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Roxbury August 19th 1823.—

My dear Brother;

I have not been unmindful of my promise to write you immediately on our arrival at this place; but have been induced to defer it from the circumstance of my not having obtained the interesting information you desired.

I knew you wished me to say something of your fair friends in Roxbury—the thermometer of your Spirits I suppose stands at least 10 degrees below 0 does it not? Never mind D^r you know the old adage about Sea fish, & I suppose it will apply equally well in the present case.—

I confess to you I was somewhat disappointed in Miss Marys beauty; she has a fine form, but her face is in my humble opinion only pretty—Mr Befs the gentleman to whom she is engaged, is a Modest looking youth, rather effeminate in his appearance, answers very well as you say 'the common purposes of life'—but is not at all distinguished—His place of residence is Mobile & her family will not consent to her removing to that country, so his intentions are, to settle his Affairs in that place & establish himself here - Sally Patten has not encreased at all in stature since I last saw her - She has a friend in Boston perhaps you knew her, a Mifs Maria Foster, from whom she receives a long letter every week—She is a complete blue stocking, her communications are written in the most sentimental style & every two or three lines a few words of latin are introduced While Sally was reading it, I was in hopes every quotation was the

last, but finding them not likely to end, & my patience being almost exhausted, I made my exit from the parlour Mentally exclaiming, 'tis very annoying so it is'-

Your friends here make many kind enquiries for you, & often wish you were here—We met Mr Williams (aunts brother) a few evenings since at Mr Bakers, he said he used to be very fond of quizzing you & related the anecdote of the eye glass which he pretended to mistake as a medal -

He has lately married a very fine woman; & notwithstanding my aversion to second marriages, I was sincerely rejoiced at his, for Alice Douse has for the last two years render'd his life completely miserable - From the accounts I hear of her she must be wretchedly unhappy in her temper — Old Madam Williams occupies her usual station in her rocking chair at the back parlour window & life with her appears to glide on most smoothly & pleasantly—I never saw serenity of mind & freedom from all care more strongly express'd in any countenance than in hers—

She says she is no friend to low spirits, but intends to enjoy the good things of this life while she can—fortunate woman! She has at present no cause of sorrow & perhaps cannot understand the feelings of those who ex-

perience it—

I have been in town but once since my arrival & that was merely to call on Mary Bordman & Helen Davis - I was surprised to see Mary looking so well & walks also much better than I had an idea of - she can walk a little without her cane, but generally makes use of it — She has been out to see us twice, yesterday came with Helen Davis —.

Helen said she told M—— she ought to try to conciliate her Father a little & perhaps the attempt would be successful, but Mary turned to her with a look of much solemnity, & said Helen, I swear to you, that I will never say another word to the man again upon the subject. & I will be married in October, & nothing shall prevent it unless it be a pistol shot through my heart!—I think she is not deficient in resolution—Mr Bordman went to see

¹ Aunt was probably Mrs. Sargent.

Mr Minot (son in law to Mr Davis) & conversed with him upon the subject, told Minot he had no objection to Mr G. that he had received information lately relative to his character & standing which entirely satisfied him—& that if Mr G. could prove to him that he was able to support his daughter he should no longer withhold his consent—said with tears in his eyes that Mary was, & always had been his favourite child & that a report had been circulated that he intended to cut her off in his will, to disinherit her entirely but that it was entirely false, he had never such an idea, but that it could not be expected that she would receive as much as the she married with his consent—I think it most probable the 'old Don' will come round at last—

When next you see our good friends M^r Rogers & Susan (which occurrence I suppose takes place daily) give much love to them—I presume Eliza & Sarah have left Phil^a ere this—I can hardly realize that it is not two months instead of two weeks since I have seen that charming family. I have been out to Newton to see my valued friend Judith—she is the same almost perfect character that she ever was. She says it is idle for me to think of returning with Maria to Cincinnati—but that I must positively remain the winter with her—as she will be entirely alone. What do you think of old M^r B's having the impudence to think of her as a Second Wife!! he is very much pleased with her, that is as it should be, but the idea of his going farther is as Washington says, worse than shocking—

Mama told me to leave room for her to add a postscript, I expect a scolding as it is, therefore I will say no

more, but write soon to y' affect Sister E

The very evening after I wrote you on our arrival here, my dear son, I received your welcome letter and bill—without the necessary information I wanted. I am astonish and grieved that I do not receive a letter from your Pa'a. What can be the reason. have you written to him?—if not write a good letter, such a one as will please him. What has become of poor Benj & Joseph. If you have any inteligence pray communicate immediately. I think you had better cut the hundred dol bill in

two, and sent it by two different mails. Do not send the second half until you hear that I have rec^d the first. The family all Join in love to you—from your Affec^{te} Mother H. G. Remember me with Affⁿ to all enquiring friends—

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Benj. Ives Gilman to his wife, Roxbury, Mass.

Cincinnati August 19th 1823

Can You, My beloved Wife, retire to your closet & bow before your heavenly Father, saying with holy Job "the Lord gave, the Lord has taken away, & blefsed be the name of the Lord?" Can you humble yourself before the Almighty & kifs the rod with which you are afflicted, saying thy will, O my God, be done & not mine? Yes, my beloved, I know you can do this & more if it be required. Your mind has been so disciplined by Christian experience, and all your affections so controuled by the blefsings of pure Religion; that you will be enabled to bear all the afflictions of this life without a murmur. In my last letter (10th inst) directed to Roxbury, you were informed of my intention to descend the River. & the sad cause.— On Tuesday, the 12th, at 1/2 past 2 O'Clock I arrived at Louisville & was preparing to jump on shore, and on the wings of the wind, to fly to the sick chamber. At this moment Capt Pierce came hastening to the Boat & I saw, by the deep seated melancholly of his countenance, that I must prepare for heavy tidings. Still hope, clung to my heart & even when the heart rending truth was announced, I could not bring my mind to believe it. it is a fact, for I have watered his grave with my tears. Yes, my beloved, our dutiful, our affectionate Son Joseph is laid in the narrow house appointed for all men: "but blefsed be God there is another house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" where I humbly trust we shall all meet, spending a blefsed eternity in Mansions where sorrows can never come. Benjamin has doubtlefs given you the particulars, but I take a melancholly satisfaction in repeating all that has come to my knowledge. Our lamented Son left New Orleans in high health & Spirits & after passing some days with his Sister, took





JOSEPH GILMAN
From a portrait owned by his granduephew, Joseph Miller, of St. Louis, Mo.

passage in the Steam Boat United States, a large, heavy Vefsel. Before reaching the mouth of the Ohio, they were overtaken by the S. B— Superior & by this opportunity he wrote (27th July) Capt Pierce saying "The little boat now in sight, will probably get up several days before us. But having taken my passage with Capt Shreeve, it would be to me, unpleasant to leave him for another Boat; therefore I shall stick to the States" Capt Shreeve could only come ten miles up the Ohio (in consequence of low water) & then his Passengers went on board a small S. B. called the Rocket. At this time one of the passengers, Capt Breckenridge of Louisville, was quite sick & our dear fon was particularly attentive to all his wants, & from him I presume our affectionate & beloved Joseph took the fatal fever. Three days before his arrival at Louisville he began to complain & took some medicine, but it did not operate. He then took an emetic which appeared to afford momentary relief. From the first there was a total lofs of appetite. On his arrival at Shippingport he was able to get into the Carriage, without help & on the day of his arrival (Friday 8th) expressed great satisfaction & thankfulness at meeting his friends. Doct Galt (one of the oldest Phyns in Louisville) was called in, but no apprehensions were entertained of a fatal result. He was very pleasant, but did not appear desirous of entering into conversation. He desired Benjamin not to leave him, & said he had suffered very much on board the Steam Boat. On Saturday he appeared much the same & was able to walk about the Chamber, but told his Brother that he could not see the houses on the opposite side of the Street. No apprehensions appear to have been entertained until about 9 OClock, Saturday evening, when he appeared a little flighty. A Blister was applied to his Stomach, but his mind still continued disordered. Twice, in the course of this night, he got out of bed & walked saving to Mr Chambers who was watching "come let us take a little walk." He did not appear to suffer any pain & continued in this state until the fun was rising, on Sunday morning the 10th of August, when he expired, without a groan. Any attempt to describe the distrefs arising from the frequent

disappointments & my agonies when the fatal result was communicated at Louisville, would be perfectly inadequate & vain. You, My Love, will realize the sad sight of a fond fathers heart, bleeding at every pore. While at Louisville I was not out of my room, excepting the day when I visited the receptacle of the dead. From the head of the Grave, of our dear fon I cull'd some spires of grafs, which shall be sent to you, with a lock of his precious hair, by Benjamin: who will probably be with you in ten days after the arrival of this Letter. I apprehend our lamented Son made a better estimate of his danger, than his attendants: for Benjamin says he appeared, when lying very quiet, to be in fervent prayer. He did not, however, express any fears, neither did he converse on business or give any directions as to his affairs. There seems to have been a fatality attending our dear fon, in the last month of his valued life. He wrote to Capt P—— from Natchez, saving that he should take palsage in the Superior. This Boat, as well as every other one, excepting the United States, brought up the Passengers in Good health. On his arrival, there was no experienced person to act as nurse. Capt P—— was accidentally detained in the Country by a lame horse, & I did not think it prudent to leave this place, as my information induced me to believe that I might pass the dear fon, on the River. By this Mail You will receive a Louisville Newspaper, with an appropriate obituary notice, written by some one of his numerous friends; & no person, I believe, had more. The Funeral was said to have been one of the largest ever witnefsed at Louisville. Rev^d M^r Banks, a Presbyterian Clergyman, Officiated. He very kindly called to see me. He is from Fairfield Connecticutt & since his residence at Louisville, say 4 years; has lost, at that place, his Father in law & Motherin-law, two Children: & when he called on me Mrs Banks & all his children were fick with Bilious Fever. The parents of Mrs Banks, not wishing to be separated from their daughter, left Connecticutt with her, & both died within the first fix months, after their arrival at Louisville.— Your affece & afflicted husband

Benj' Ives Gilman Benjⁿ is here, & will embrace the first opportunity to Chillecothe: & from thence will proceed in the Stage. It will now be absolutely necessary for me to remain here through the approaching Winter: therefore I shall expect you to commence your journey westward, soon after Benjamins arrival. Roberts dividends have been remitted, & I trust in time to meet his Notes mentioned in my last. If Robert should be married this fall, & Eliza should prefer spending the Winter in New York, She shall be supplied with funds. If my life is spared, I calculate on paying Robert for Eliza's board & also for Dear Winthrops board & Clothing—He shall not incur one cents expences on my acct—I am not certain that I can consent to Winthrops remaining at N York, & I hope our [torn] will be with us next spring, if not sooner.

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Obituary of Joseph Gilman which appeared in a Louisville paper, 1823.

With deep regret the relations and friends of Joseph Gilman esq. will learn that he is no more—On Thursday last, he arrived at this place from New Orleans, and complained of slight indisposition; but the insiduous disease was already preying on his vitals—its progress was rapid, though almost imperceptible—fears were not entertained until it was too late to hope, and on Sunday morning he ceased to exist without a groan. A numerous concourse of our citizens, many of whom had enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance during his temporary sojourning amongst us, escorted his remains and assisted in their interment the same evening.

Mr. G. was born at Marietta, Ohio, was 31 years years of age, and the eldest son of Benj. Ives Gilman of Philahelphia,—he graduated at Harvard University, and adopted the profession of commerce. For the last three years his time was divided between this place and Philadelphia. Those who knew him need not be informed, that his enterprize and talents, had secured him a high reputation as a merchant, and that the qualities of his heart had endeared him to numerous friends—and those that had not the advantage of his acquaintance, will not withhold

the tear of sympathy from his bereaved parents for the irreparable loss of one thus cut off in the prime of hope and of usefulness, who was a dutiful son, an affectionate brother and an ornament to society.

Aug. 10 Joseph Gilman, Philadelphia, bilious fever,

aged 31 years.

Aug. 8, Mr. Parker (late from N. Orleans) Bilious

fever, aged 34 years.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Gilman were taken sick on the river below this place, and died in a few days after they reached Louisville. A young gentleman of the name of Lindsey, (from Lexington) and who came up the river in the same boat with Mr. Gilman, died in this place on Monday evening last.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to his wife, Roxbury, Mass.

Cincinnati—

Wednesday August 20th 1823.—I have just parted (perhaps for the last time) from our dear fon Benjamin, who has commenced his journey, in a Coachee, with three Gentlemen, who are on their way to the Atlantic Cities. They will probably take the Stage at Chilicothe, or Zanesville, and You may expect, My beloved Wife, to see Your fon, in a few days after the arrival of this letter. But where is our affectionate fon Joseph? Often do I ask myself this question, & say he cannot be dead; I must fly to his relief & by assiduous care I can restore him. This illusion soon palses off, & the fresh made grave is presented to my view. How much, my dear, do I need your consolations, in these agonizing hours of affliction. When I went to Louisville last week I took with me the vial of Sal-Eratus (which Chandler bo't for me) knowing it to be a useful medicine in fevers. I also took the model of the Steam boat, & my book of extracts which I made last Winter for dear Joseph; trusting that I should find him convalescent & knowing that he would be delighted to hear me read & explain every thing relative to improvements in Steam Engines. Who can figure to themselves, my grief & despair when the appaling news first struck

my ear? I could not resist exclaiming Joseph, my dear fon Joseph! He is not dead. It is not possible that he is dead. How dark & inscrutable are the ways of Providence.—On this enterprising & industrious Son, we were leaning for support in our declining Years; and in the very hour when I was anticipating a joyous meeting, the icy hand of death was prefsing heavily upon his affectionate heart. Oh, my dear Wife, can I; shall I; ever feel submissive, under this most excruciating bereavement? I am now alone, desolate & forlorn, upon the sickly banks of the Ohio. & not a soul to commune with, in my distrefs. The noise & gaiety with which I am surrounded greatly agravate my sufferings. I have commenced this letter, not with an intention of sending it away soon, but merely to derive a melancholly consolation from spreading my sorrows before you, my beloved Wife, who for more than thirty years have shared in all my pains and pleasures. Yesterday I wrote to you, & to our dear Robert You will have passed sixteen (I hope) pleasant days with your relatives at Roxbury before the fatal news arrives, that will overwhelm you with distrefs. A merciful God, I humbly trust, "will temper the wind to the shorn lamb". Thursday even 21st. The eastern Mail has just arrived but no letters for me. I saw the Philada Newspapers, but they are not interesting to me, since your removal; & I have return to my chamber to pass the evening in solitude. I was grieved at some information contained in Roberts last letter he says "all your furniture has been sold at auction, excepting a few articles retained for me" Now this is directly contrary to my wishes & expressed intentions. It was my desire to have almost all kept & a few sold; so that he might have enough to commence house-keeping, save a few fashionable articles for Parlours; and if he should not have occasion for the furniture, I should have prefer'd keeping the greater part; as it is possible we may yet want it ourselves. I am greatly afraid that Robt will never be cured of extravagant ideas, and expensive habits. I am constantly filling my letters with admonitions, and if he fails in this attempt through extravagance or want of attention, I shall consider him as lost

forever. I was engaged this morning in writing to Mr Ives & Wilson & Chambers, and this afternoon in the melancholly task of arranging our dear, departed, fons papers. Although I have no rational grounds to expect it, still I entertain a hope that Benjamin will find some kind of business in the Atlantic States, for I should be very sorry to have him permanently established in this Country. I have no fears as relates to business on my own account, for I see the way quite clear to make enough to support us handsomely, if my health is retained; and I should not be disturbed by debts created by others. Of one thing you may rest assured, I shall keep the staff in my own hands, so long as I have breath. The Man who stole the money from Joseph's letters has at length been detected. About \$250 of the Notes have been found upon him, but whether any further fum will be recovered is uncertain. His name is Reese, formerly a Post Master. He has been carrying on quite a wholesale businefs— Good night, my beloved Wife. Friday even^g 22^d I have been engaged all this day in a melancholly task. In the morning unpacking, airing & making a list of our lamented fon's clothing & this afternoon have been arranging his papers. In the Trunk of Clothes I found 2 Coats, 8 vests. 7 pr Cloth Pantaloons, 7 pr drilling ditto. 8 Banda Handkerchiefs. 14 cambrick do, 14 pr Socks. 5 pr Hose. 3 Razors. 2 pr Suspenders. 3 brushes. 1 Gold Watch. 1 musical box — 4 shirts (two of them mere rags) 1 Outside Jacket. 2 pr Gloves. 3 Penknives 3 tooth brushes. 1 pr Elastic Garters - 3 pocket books. 1 Razor Strop. 4 or 5 vards Camb Muslin. There is also a large plaid Cloak & an Umbrella. When you see Benjamin, I wish you to ask him if he can give me any information respecting shirts. I presume our dear fon had at least a dozen. weather has altered very much within a few days & it is almost cold enough this evening for a frost — Thursday night the 7th inst was the warmest I ever experienced. The Thermometer, before sun-rise on friday morn^g was at 87° Oh! how our dear fon must have suffered in the confined Cabin of a small Steam Boat. My selfish feelings sometimes make me regret that you did not come immediately westward. I should then have been in hourly expectation of a meeting. The idea of passing two more months in solitude, in the present state of my mind, seems almost insupportable. Hasten, my love, to your disconsolate husband.

Saturday eveng 23d Augt.—How happy have we been, in times past my dear Wife, when Saturday night came, with our children gathered around the supper table. Now we are scatter'd over the Country, forlorn & wretched. I cannot help repining at the sad reverse of fortune. A Doct Johnson mentioned to me at the dinner table, that he saw my family at Philada recently; but my heart was too full to ask him any questions. I have no grounds for expecting letters, & still was disappointed when the Mail came in this morning, & the Post Master answered "nothing for Mr G--', A traveller has just arrived, who passed Benjamin near Chillicothe. I do not think he will be able to arrange his business so as to come out with You, even if he should be compel'd to return to this Country, to gain a living. It seems to me that I shall never be contented here, unlefs I can have our two youngest Sons with us. Perhaps dear Eliza will overcome the repugnance she has to Cincinnati. I hope you will be able to find a steady family for Chandler to board in, the ensuing autumn & Winter. Every hour ought to be devoted to professional pursuits, & he ought, this Winter, for various reasons, not to go into society.—Adieu.—

Sunday evening 24th August,—Another sorrowful day is past. In the course of this week you will receive the fatal news which will overwhelm you with distrefs. This morning I went to the second Presbyterian Church, in the expectation of hearing M^r Root, but learnt that he is sick with bilious fever. The desk was supplied by a Young Man who gave a very good sermon. Never, in my life before did I so severely feel the lofs of your Society. I am constantly alone in my Chamber, and see no one, excepting at Meals. It is reported here, that your Brother Samuel's Wife is very dangerously sick & that Gen' Putnam and Judge Woodbridge are dead. I think it will be best, under existing circumstances, to board out, this

¹ Hon. Dudley Woodbridge died this year, but General Rufus Putnam lived until 1824.

Winter, and next spring (if our lives are spared) our minds may be made up, as to a permanent residence. I feel much anxiety on Benjamins account, & fear he will find it much more difficult to get into business, than he appears to apprehend. Do persuade him to leave off his disgusting habit of smoking Segars. The weather is remarkably cool & pleasant, and the Town quite healthy for the season. I hope to have a letter from you tomorrowmorning, dated at Roxbury. Monday Morne 25th No. cheering letter from you, my dear, by this days Mail, but one from Robert (12th inst). If he is to be married this year, it had better be on the day proposed (6th of October) & leave Roxbury the same day (& hour if practicable) for New York. I beseech You to keep with him until this affair is over; or postponed to next year. Not being on the ground I am unable to form correct opinions; but my present impression is, that so much has been said. that the sooner the business is finished the better. duly appreciate the motives that induced you to visit Boston, but you must recollect, my dear, that others have a claim upon Your time & attentions beside Robert. I have exerted myself, to the utmost, in his behalf; & shall continue to do fo with pleasure, but in my depressed fituation, it is necessary for me to think how you & I, my dear, are to pass the remnant of our days. Since writing the foregoing I have been informed that our friend M^rCourtauld is dead. It is said he was on a visit to Pittsburgh, with his daughter Sophie, & that he died there. I have written to Robert repeatedly mentioning that he must not look to friends exclusively for aid, but that his principal reliance must be on his own exertions. must make himself as useful as possible to Mactier & be in the store by night & by day: saving all Clerk hire & economizing in everything—He must render himself remarkable, for strict attention to business, punctuality, secrecy, perseverance, & fidelity—If he does this he may rise into the first rank for wealth and respectability; but if he neglects his business and attends to pleasure & amusement, he will be irretrievably ruined—

Tuesday 26th.—I am sorry to learn (from Rob^{ts} letter) that he is considered an intemperate eater at New York.

Intemperance in eating will destroy the constitution, as certainly as intemperate in drinking. He has had a solemn warning at Natchez. It is a vulgar, ungentlemanly habit, which on every account he ought to avoid. I am now very anxious to know whether he will be married the 6th of Oct°—& know not what to advise. If the union sh^d take place you will give our beloved son Winthrop, into the especial charge of Mifs B—— He should continue his french studies. I cannot bear the idea of having him left behind.

B. I. G.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to her husband, Cincinnati, Ohio.¹

I have many times attempted to write to my dear Afflicted husband, & have laid aside the pen in an agony too great for utterance. And now how shall I begin, and what shall I say. O that it were in my power to give you the consolation I so much need myself. I had rec^d your letter with information that the most amiable and dutiful of children, the best of sons had arrived and was indisposed. But Alas I was not prepared for the fatal stroke. My kind Brothers & friends assured me it was nothing but a cold and the fatigues of a long passage - and my next letter would undoubtedly give me the happy information of the health and happiness of our son. But now my child is gone—gone forever from my view.—The cold grave has received him, and we never more shall behold the support of our declining days. I feel as the Patriarch did when he in anguish said would God I had died for thee O my son, my son. But is there not a voice to us in this Providence - saying Be ye also ready? now now see the uncertainty of life & all its enjoyments. O my beloved husband let me lead you to that blefsed saviour, who is ever ready to hear our prayers to grant us pardon & peace, and enable us to say in strong faith Thy will be done. Apply to him I entreet you, in whom my soul most sweetly rests, that you may receive grace to improve this severe dispensation of his Providence

¹ A copy made by Mrs. Gilman.

aright. May it convince us how precarious are all our comforts: & the necessity of being prepared for every event. We have, within the last two years, met with Afflictions of various kinds, which we thought severe. But what were they in comparison to this. I have often in my petitions to my heavenly father said - strip me of all my temporal comforts—but spare O spare my husband spare our children. For wise reasons, an Infinitely holy being has seen best to take from us one of our greatest comforts. This is a mysterious providence. He cannot err - his ways are perfect, the Judge of all the earth will do right. Shall we receive good, and shall we not receive evil at the hands of our God? Let us in humble gratitude, adore him for the mercies he has left us, let us be grateful that our dear departed child was spared so long — that he was sufferd to breathe his life out sweetly in the arms of his brother. Mercies my love, are mixd with all our Afflictions, let us be still, and know that our father who has chastened us, is our merciful friend and our God. And O may he bind up your broken heart and lead you to the rock that is higher than we. I have recd a kind Affectionate & consoling letter from dear Benja-& with it a paper from you. Yesterday I recd a letter from Robert announcing his brothers safe arrival in Philadelphia, for which I shall ever possels a grateful heart. Poor Chandler had recd no inteligence of his departed Brother until a letter from Mr Chambers arrived with the heart-rending news that he was no more. I understand he was confined to his bed - so nervous that the least noise would cause him to start, as if his whole frame was convulsed. Doct Parrish-& many of our friends visited him — and his friend Wm Morgan scarcely left him. Feeling most sensibly for him in his lonely situation I wrote to him as soon as I was able to hold the pen. Eliza & Arthur are overwhelmd in grief. Arthur has had a touch of dysentary, but with the blefsing of heaven & his uncles afsistance, he has recoverd. Now my dear husband all my anxiety is for you. I want to commence my Journey now to Cincinnati. But my Brothers & children think that my body and mind are too weak to encounter it. I have requested Eliza & she has written

to Benjⁿ to ask his advice on this subject. and I hope he will think it best for me to come to you now. &c

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Chandler R. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Lebanon August 30th 1823.

Dear Chandler,

You have doubtlefs heard ere this, of the unhappy State of Natchez in consequence of the yellow fever, which rages there with more virulence than it has ever before done—& lest the family should be anxious on our account, I have determined to write a few hasty lines this evening that you may know we are, by the goodness of providence, in perfect health at Lebanon. This fever (by some call'd the cold plague) originated at Natchez and as we heard of it 2 or 3 weeks ago, M^r Miller has not been in town since Joseph left us; consequently we could not hear particularly from our friends there - but the accounts which others have brought out, are dreadful indeed—On some days, 30 persons have died—& yesterday we were told by Judge Winston that Mr & Mrs Thompson were both dead! I have heard no particulars—but presume James Williams will write to Mrs Sargent, & you will probably hear more than I can tell you.—I never was more shocked in my life. Mrs Thompson I presume has left a helples infant, as she expected to be confined this summer.—Washington has continued healthy but so many of the sick are brought out there from Natchez that they much fear the infection will be carried there. Seven of the sick (brought from N.) died there on Wednesday last - & Mr Miller thinks it best for us not to communicate even with Washⁿ. It will be a grief to me not to be able to send for letters - but we must submit to necessity & you will doubtlefs approve of Mr Miller's prudence. You must not be alarm'd at not hearing from us, as it will prevent our writing home till we are certain we can send to Washington with safety. I know not whether this letter will ever reach you, as we shall send it to a house on the road to Washington, to be given in charge to the first decent person who may pass to that place.

The sheriff was yesterday making arrangements to remove the prisoners from the jail at Natchez & the phisicians have all given notice they can no longer remain in the city. The country is as healthy, perhaps more so, than usual at this season—& at Lebanon we have not one of us been seriously indisposed this summer—not even a negro. The distrefs of Natchez however casts a gloom over every face—& I cannot but use the words of the episcopal prayer—"May this thy fatherly correction have its due influence upon us by leading us to consider how frail & uncertain our life is, that we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom, which in the end will bring us to everlasting life." How often dear Chandler, we are reminded that we are but pilgrims here! Happy is it for those who have laid up their treasure in heaven who can say "tho I walk thro" the valley of the Shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me thy rod & thy staff they comfort me. But in prosperity as well as in affliction the sincere christian has that peace of mind which our blessed Saviour died to purchase for us—which passeth all understanding & which is more precious to its possessor than all the pleasures & happiness which the world can afford—it is that peace which our Saviour bequeathed to his disciples — and Oh "not as the world giveth" gives he to his followers.

Mr Miller has this moment entered & to my inexprefsible pleasure brought me a letter from dear Mama dated 28th July, which a neighbor of ours who went to Washington today, was kind enough to enquire for, & bring out. I am pleased to hear of the arrangements of the family particularly that Papa has determined to reside some time at Cincinnati—if our lives are spared & nothing happens to prevent, we shall probably meet them, & I hope yourself there in the spring. Will not that be delightful? I really long to see you all—and dear Eliza how delighted I shall be to see her again! I wish too to shew you Elizabeth & Jane—they are—but I will not praise them - for I know just the turn of expression your countenance would take on the occasion. I would write to dear Ma'a tonight were it not too late — I have therefore to request you to forward this scrawl to her;

that her anxiety on our account may be relieved—I however will write to her as soon as possible. Mr Miller is in excellent health as usual—He has lately hired an overseer—a very decent young man—who is intelligent & active in business—and humane to the negroes. Do not delay writing to me dear Chandler—I may have opportunities of sending to the office, & I am anxious to know what you are doing & what are your plans. Mr Miller desires to be remember do you. From your affectionate Sister Rebecca.

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Robert H. Gilman to Benj. Ives Gilman, Cincinnati, Ohio.

New York 1st of September 1823.

My Dear Father.

I wrote you a few hasty lines on the 28th Ulto by way of postscript to Winthrop's letter, since when I have received yours of the 14th Augst. from Louisville, enclosing the 2d of Exchange on London for £584.19s.11d which will enable me to sell the bill at 61/2 pr ct. premm. This, my dear father, makes us quite easy and has satisfied Mr Mactier for the present. I am in hopes soon to receive from you the certificate for my six shares in the Rob Roy which will enable me to raise as much money as will be necessary for my arrangements here. Our business still continues excellent. Commissions already exceed \$2500. & we vesterday recieved orders to effect insurance on another cargo of about 450 bags of coffee which is daily expected to our address. By the mail of this morning I had the pleasure to receive a letter from Benjamin announcing his safe arrival in Philada in good health.- I am alarmed my dear Parent on your account as Benjamin says you were somewhat indisposed when he left you at Cincinnati. I hope & trust you will be very careful of your health & not allow your affliction to prey upon your mind. You have many comforts remaining dear Paa & I have no doubt there are happy days in Store for us yet. My prospects appear very bright & if I can only hear my father is well & happy I shall be content. My dear Mary

expresses the greatest concern & anxiety for you & desired me when I wrote to present her tenderest affection to her dearest father. Affairs in Boston begin to assume a much milder aspect—the family are beginning to say that they can see no objection—& since her father has discovered that is our fixed determination to be united early in October, he says that he is so much distressed at his daughters decision that he can't sleep &c—& that he wants to give her as much as his other daughters, but is afraid that it will be sanctioning bad examples &c &c. My own opinion is that he will come round before we are married one week.

We shall be united on the 8th of next month & shall probably remain in Boston four or five days & then set out with Maa, Eliza, Arthur, Miss Osborn (Mary's friend who intends passing the winter with her in New York) Mary & myself for this City, where I have already engaged & furnished two handsome rooms in one of the most pleasant & agreeable situations in town, for her reception. Mary is anxious for Eliza to remain this winter with her & if you think it best, she will remain.

In one of my late letters I asked you to furnish me with a suitable letter to send Mr Bordman as soon as I am married & I hope you will gratify me as I wish to send him a very proper letter on the occasion. I have not heard from Ma'a (excepting through Mary) for the last ten days. I had a letter yesterday from Mary stating that they were well & then absent at Salem on a visit to Thomas Bancroft.

I suppose ere this you have taken out letters of administration on the estate of our lamented Joseph & presume it will be 12 or 18 months before you can bring his affairs to a settlement. I believe the law allows 18 months for the winding up of a deceased persons estate, & I suppose you will not be able to say whether the estate will be solvent until all his property is entirely sold—so that you will not be able to make any payment on his account until all monies are collected & the estate ascertained to be solvent. If his Steam Boat Shares are to be sold I should like to become the purchaser for which I would

¹ He married Mary Bordman, on September 20th.

give you the original cost in my notes at 1 & two years with interest from date. If you can sell me these shares it will enable me to raise sufficient money to set me entirely easy here & I can with ease meet the payments for them as they fall due.

I enclose a memorandum for a Cargo for Aix Cayes & hope you will be able to execute it. Please write me fully upon this subject in reply, as well as upon the subject of

a new boat.

Again enjoining it upon you, my dear father, to be careful of your health, I remain your affectionate and dutiful Son

Rob^t H. Gilman.

Winthrop is well & joins me in love.

William L. Hodge failed last week & I wish you to tell Morsell not to make him any further payments on a/c of my domestic adventure until he hears from me. I shall write Morsell soon.

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Benj. Ives Gilman, Cincinnati, Ohio.¹

Lebanon, Oct. 8th, 1823

My dear Father:

It was not until last evening that I received your letter of the 28th August containing the heart-rending intelligence of the death of my beloved brother, Joseph. This distressing news was so totally unexpected that it was like a dagger to my heart. He appeared in such excellent health when here, and such a length of time had elapsed since his departure from Natchez that I had ceased to be anxious on his account concluding, as we heard nothing to the contrary, he had arrived safe and well. Dear Joseph! what anguish will all his family feel for his lofs! He was so good, so affectionate, such an amiable disposition, — truly he was "an Israelite indeed in whom there was no guile". He particularly endeared himself to us during his last visit - he spoke affectionately of all the family; and while conversing with us on the society of Philadelphia, he observed "the happiest moments of

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

his life had been passed in our domestick circle in Phila." Our family, he said, formed a little society in itself, and when he was with them he did not wish for more society. He mentioned Eliza with much interest, and told me he intended presenting her with two shares in the steamboat. Since I read your letter everything wears a gloomy aspect—I wander from place to place recollecting, "here he sat", "here we all walked together", and "here but a short time since, we conversed so pleasantly together. And I can only find consolation in the hope and belief that he is now receiving the reward of his uncommon excellence in that world where "the spirits of just men are made perfect", and where there is "fulness of joy and pleasures forevermore". We know it is the hand of our Heavenly Father which has removed him from us.

Benjamin's letter to Mr. Thompson did not probably arrive till after his death. Mr. Miller, in his letter to yourself, mentioned the death of Mr. & Mrs. Thomson, and we have since heard that their three children are also dead! The fever has abated considerably in Natchez, and many persons have been so imprudent as to return to that place and some have lost their lives in consequence—amongst whom is Dr. Pro-

veen.

It has been confined to a particular place in Washington and has never spread from there. We have nothing to call us to town and shall not, perhaps, go there until Spring. Our little son (John Gibbons) is quite well, nearly three weeks old. Elizabeth and Jane are also well as is all at Lebanon. I hope my dear mother will be with you dear Papa, before this letter reaches you. Mr Miller begs to be remembered affectionately to you. It is unnecessary to say that he sympathizes most deeply with us in our distress. I hope yourself or my dear mother will write to us immediately on receipt of this letter, as I am exceedingly anxious to hear from you. Your affectionate child,

R. I. Miller

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Arthur Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Cincinnati Octo: 21st. 1823.

With great pleasure, my dear brother, I now sit down to address a few lines to you, altho' I did not receive the promised letter from you in Alexandria. You will have heard, through my letter to Benj'a, of our safe arrival here, on Thursday last & of our having found Paa almost well, he is now perfectly well, altho' he has not, as yet, entirely recovered his strength. As I suppose you would like to hear some of the particulars of our journey out-I will proceed to say, 'that the morning after we left you we arrived safe at Baltimore, which place we left, in a private stage, same morning for Alexandria, where we arrived at about 6 oclock P. M. & found Uncle Isaac & his family all well. They enquired very particularly after you. Cousin Jane has grown considerably larger than when I last saw her, but she is the same in other respects, as when in Philada. We left them for Washington, on Monday evening & stopt at Browns that we might be ready for the stage, which was to start at 2 o'clock A. M. Next day we arrived in Fredericktown at about 1/2 past 1 oclock, After we had been there about 1/2 an hour the Stage from Balt drove up in which there were 9 passengers. We found no difficulty, however, in procuring seats, as I had entered our names for Wheeling in Washington. At about 1/2 past 9 same night, we arrived in Hagerstown, at 2 next morning left Hagers. T. & proceeded that night to Endsleys tavern 21 miles beyond Cumberland. At about 1/2 past 1 next morning left Endsleys & arrived that night in Washington,2 left Washington at about 2 next morning Friday & were in Wheeling at about 10. We found the river very low, but as there

¹ This new way of going west is now called "The Old National Pike." It is described in the Automobile Blue Book as being a "succession of steep climbs and descents." Some of the old inns are still in operation and the scenery is magnificent. It was the regular way that the family took after this and must have saved time.

² Pennsylvania.

was some hopes of a small Boat call'd the Experiment getting up, I had concluded to wait a few days for her, when Mr McKee call'd & brought a letter containing an acct of Paas indisposition. I then ask'd him, in which way he thought we would get down soonest & he said that I had better take two seats in a hack, the offer of which I had just had; I immediately did so & we left Wheeling that afternoon Friday at 1/2 past 3 & arrived in Cinca the following Thursday at about the same hour. So, taking all things into consideration I think we made a pretty expeditious trip, 10½ travelling days from Philada. Cincinnati is very much improved since I left, a great number of new buildings have been put up, which has altered the appearance of some of the streets very much. most all the young Ladies I was acquainted with are married off. I had the pleasure of meeting the lovely Mrs Schenck in the street the day after I arrived. She does not look quite so beautiful as she used to. Jimmy is very well & appeared very much tickled when Maa presented him with a piece of wedding cake from Rob he cut it up into small pieces & sent it round among the ladies of his acquaintance to dream on. He appears very anxious to see Robts wife & says that if he crosses the mountains this winter he will certainly go to N. York to see her. He made a great many enquiries about his Philada friends. Tell Mifs Susan Rogers that in obedience to her request I remembered her very affectionately to him. Paa received a letter from Mr Miller, last week, with the information that Rebecca had a fine son, one week old at the date of his letter & R was well enough to be about her The child is to be call'd John Gibbon. Paa desires me to say that he received a letter from you while he was sick, but as yet had not been able to answer it, he will however soon. Remember me very particularly to the Jaudons, Rogers & to all enquiring friends. I am sorry that I brought your Coat as it was only an incumbrance on the journey, the weather being too warm to use it. I shall take the first opportunity of sending it on. Answer this soon—from Yr Affe bror

A Gilman.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth H. Gilman, New York.

Cincinnati Octr 30th 1823

Your interesting and affectionate letter my dear Elizabeth, came to hand a few days since, and gave us great satisfaction. Your Pa'a has indeed been extremely sick, but heaven has again appeared for his relief, & prolonged his valuable life. May we never forget that in all our afflictions, the kind hand of mercy has been extended to us. It appears my dear E, that not only you was kept in ignorance of your Pa'as illness, but I also, did not know it, until my arrival at Wheeling. Your Pa'a, while at the worst, was held up in bed, while he wrote his particular situation to Robert, that I might know it before my arrival at Cincinnati, least his life should not be spared and the shock be too great for your poor mother. But as it is.—I am glad I did not know it, and think Rob^t did prudently. For had I known it, in the state of mind I then was in — I think it probable I should not have been able to reach this place. Robert mentioned in his letter to your Pa'a, that your health was improved, and as you would probably see much gay company this winter your spirits would also be improved. I think my dear children, that the situation of our family, ought to preclude gay company, and I sincerely hope that you will not at least this winter, mix in the gay world. You will be thought my dear Robert, very unfeeling after this severe affliction to be seen in fashionable life—and I pray you may not. I feel exceedingly anxious about Robert's cold. He had a cough while I was with you, and I fear it will prove serious. If it is no better-I wish you & Mary, would go to the Apothecary yourselves - and get every ingredient of the recipe which Mrs Latimer gave you for a cough. Do my dear Mary - (for remember I depend on you—you have so much influence over him) do not let him take the evening air - and take good care of his health, & your own! Your Pa'a says, tell Robert if he wishes to be rid of his cough—he must sleep on a mattrafs—rise early in the morning—and avoid the

evening air. I suppose you will all wish to know how I like Cincinnati—how we live—who we see—where we go &c &c — But really my dear children, it is a subject that perhaps I better not venture upon. You know Elizabeth, my feelings and thoughts—respecting this country. When I was married, I felt willing to leave Parents doating parents—Brothers—sister—and the most affectionate of friends and acquaintances—and take up my abode in a howling wilderness—a land inhabited by savages and beasts of prey. We were blest with children-lovely children-our substance increased-to whatever we turned our hand, we were prospered. - In a few years, we were able to set under our own vine and fig tree - and have none to make us afraid. If we had continued there, I should have forgotten any other mode of living—I should have been contented and happy. But we soon saw our children growing up—like calves. We had not the benefit of schools—we saw the propriety, and felt the necessity of them, and we determined to remove to our native soil, that our children might be educated, and brought into life. We left this country—and your Pa'a could say with Jacob of old, "with my staff I passed over this Jordan—and now I have become two bands". We left this country—and O my children—it was the happiest moment of my life. We were happy in our family—we grew and flourished many years—and when heaven saw fit to send us adversity, my only fear was; that probably some day, we should be obliged to remove into this country. I must not view it as the path of duty directed us, by Infinite wisdom.—I must be grateful to heaven that we yet live—and pray that the happy time will come, when we shall again leave this country. and reside a few years—it will not be more—with the dearest and best of children. When parents are growing into years, particularly if they have been unfortunate there is a void in their hearts, which nothing but the society of their children can fill. In their absence, they feel like useless beings — whoever they afsociate with, appear uninterested for them—and totally indifferent to them. and little comfort is to be found for them—but in the society of their children. No Affliction on earth so great

as for Parents to be deprived of their children. — Then how agonizing to be deprived of them by the rude hand of death. O may a kind and merciful God, who is my God, spare us to see our children, and spare their precious lives, that we may meet once more, never to be separated. We received a letter from your dear sister Rebecca, of the same post date with yours. They were all well—her Infant son, was three weeks old. She had Just heard the heart-rending inteligence of the death of our lamented Joseph. She says, 1. . I wish my dear Elizabeth you would write to Rebecca, her letters are peculiarly interesting and instructive, particularly to a young christian. Her experience in the christian life, is truly astonishing. She laments the death of Mrs Thompson, and says they have Just heard that their three children, are all dead! this report I most sincerely hope is without foundation. We hope you will all write often—never neglect private conveyances — we look forward to the Mail days with a thousand hopes — and when we have no letter, if we have a news-paper, I am filled with delight. Tell Winthrop his letters are a cordial to us—and I should like to see another hand pointing to an advertisement. I wish him to call at F & R Lockwood No 154 broadway—and buy me the christian Almanack, Price 8 cents. Robert will show him how to do it up that it may come cheep. - I have written Benjⁿ & hope you & Rob^t will Keep up a correspondence with him and Chandler. As Robt has money of y' Pa'as — when you want any, you must ask him for some. Old Mrs Wallace & her daughter have calld on me — Mrs Jones & Mrs Crittendon. Give the enclose bill of exchange to Mactier & Co-Your Pa'a & A Join me in love to all. Remember me particularly to Mrs M—— & darling Kate Your mother.

I shall soon be expecting a letter from my dearly beloved Mary. I wrote her on the 21st. Nov 3^d — This letter my d^r E was put in prefs, and forgotten until yesterday. We have Just rec^d your Kind letter of 18th ult^o. We are all well & send love. HG P. S. I wish you to make Winthrop two flanell waistcoats to wear next his skin.

¹ Repetition from Mrs. Miller's letter omitted.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Cincinnati Nov^r 15th 1823

Your interesting letter my dear Chandler, of Oct 17th came to hand a few days since, and gave us a great deal of pleasure. I am much pleased to hear that you and Benjⁿ like your place of residence so well—but am rather surprised that you have not yet a room by yourselves. Does not Benjⁿ occupy that small chamber? Mrs B told me he should have it immediately. In your next, let me know the particulars. I am grieved that you are deprived of the society of your friend William—but hope you will keep up a correspondence with him — which will in some measure aleviate the pains of absence. I wish you may find another William Morgan, in your friend from the south. I am pleased to hear that his sister was so favourably imprest, and hope and trust, that you will not disappoint her expectations—but will prove indeed a Mentor to her Brother. Your Pa'a desires me to say, that it is quite out of character for a young man Just coming into life, to be subject to depression of spirits and he hopes that a word to the wise will be sufficient. As to a place of residence in future, he strongly recommends that part of the world to any other. He says that your profession in this country is so crowded, that you must not think of coming west. And what is still worse, Physicians cannot get their pay. In the sickly seasons, people are sending for them constantly—and when they recover, it is all forgotten, and you may get your pay if you can. However, I hope and trust that a kind providence will bring us together again, before you are ready to settle down and then your Pa'a will be better able to advise you. He has now recovered of his late sickness. and looks like himself. Since his indisposition, he finds that it hurts his head, to write letters, and it is difficult for him to write those that he is obliged to write on hus-Or you would have had one from him before As to Doct Parrish, I am not surprised that he discovers an unwillingness to give advice in A's casebecause there is no prospect of a fee. Do not say any more to him—as A's health is much improved. have lately rec^d a letter from Rebecca. She had just heard the heart rending intellegence of the death of your dear Brother Joseph. She says 1 . . I hope my dear Chandler you write to that dear sister—her letters are peculiarly interesting—particularly at this time. Her experience in the Christian life, seems truly astonishing. She laments the death of Mrs Thompson, and says "we have Just heard that their three children are all dead! Mr Lewis Evans and family have arrived from Phila-Mrs Huntington & Mifs Catherine are are Coll Macks the latter very sick with billious fever - Mifs Sarah, ruptured a blood vefsel at Chambersburg—and has a billious fever, and is so low, as not to be able to be brought on shore. Mrs H told me that they should remain here until Catherine was able to be carried into a steam boat— & then they should proceed to Natchez. She says, her father has hired Gloster Place — and Mr Tichenor is living there, to [have] every thing in order, for their reception. What will poor Mrs S, say to that. A family which she has so much dispised. They have been two months on the road. Tell Benjⁿ General Ganes & his lady have been at Macks the last week, and left here for Washington city this morning. I think he looks very much like Mr Ives—and his lady I admire. Your Pa'a wrote Beniⁿ last mail. & I as usual, added a PS. Arthur wrote you, some time since, largely—& is in daily expectation of a reply. This town is very pleasantly situated—but I feel like a desolate being — without my children — nothing can supply the lofs of their society. When absent from our children, we feel like uselefs beings, and very little comfort is to be found for us—but the society of our children. No affliction so great, as for Parents to be deprived of the company of their children. The [torn] ing—to be deprived of them by the rude hand of death I [torn] of dear Mrs Rogers in this severe affliction — and have mingled my tears with her's—and trust we have met at a throne of grace. Tell her no one can with more feeling, sympathize with her, than your Affectionate

¹ Repetition from Mrs. Miller's letter omitted.

mother. H. G. Your Pa'a & Brother Join in love to you both.

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Chandler R. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa. 1

Lebanon, Dec. 3rd, 1823.

Dear Chandler:

I received your kind letter of the 29th of Sept. not long since and I felt myself so much obliged to you for overlooking my silence and answering my letter of August so readily that I should not have allowed one hour to pass without responding to yours had not a weakness in my eyes, the consequence of a bad cold made it imprudent for me to write, and since my eyes recovered I have been so much engaged that it was not until this morning I could find time to take up my pen to write you. Your letter was doubly welcome in consequence of my having heard by a letter from Mama, of your illness and I was rejoiced to learn that you had recovered, and that Benjamin had reached Philadelphia. Your situation must have been very unpleasant before his arrival, but the friendship and kind attentions of William Morgan must have been a great consolation. The attachment between yourself and that young gentleman seems to be much more than the common friendship of young persons of your age; it does credit to you both and I hope it may be as lasting as it is strong; for amongst all your acquaintances I believe you could not have made a more judicious choice.

You say you have determined to settle in New York. It will be pleasant to Robert to have you there. Eliza and Winty may perhaps also settle there. Benjamin, if he remains in Philadelphia, will not be far from you, and I expect to hear that Papa and Mama have determined to move there also, for wherever their children are, they will wish to be. You will find New York, I think, a more pleasant place of residence than Philadelphia. I am only fearful that the gaity of the City will make you forgetful of the uncertainty of life and its enjoyments. I know

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

young people are apt to hope for and expect so much happiness in this life. It is to be regretted that the minds of so many young persons are led astray by the hundreds of novels, scarcely any of which give a true and faithful picture of life, but on the contrary they induce us to believe that altho' sorrow has "our young days shaded" yet we shall be perfectly happy at the last—and death and eternity instead of being looked forward to with serenity and hope, become subjects of melancholy and horror to the mind. We are taught by them to lay up our treasure and heart on the earth and to dread nothing

so much as the close of our earthly pilgrimage.

Mr. Miller went to town yesterday for the first time for 4 months. He visited James Williams' family, who are well, but Mrs. Williams is constantly in tears for the loss of her two lovely children, Mary and Percy. Our society is much broken up at Natchez. I suppose you have heard of the death of all Mr. Thompson's children. Mr. T. died at the Grove. James then took Mrs. Thompson over to Belmont, where she died the next day. There being many persons at Belmont, James sent for a bed to the Grove, and they sent the one on which Mr. Thompson died. Mary and Anna Thompson, Mary Williams and Percy, who were in fine health, were put to sleep on it and in a few days they were all dead!! Is not this sufficient proof that the desease is contagious? We are all R. T. Miller well at Lebanon.

I suppose you have heard of the birth of our little son, John Gibbons. I will say nothing of him, as it will go for nothing with you, but a lady of my acquaintance said he was the prettiest of the three. Remember us affectionately to Benj., and write very soon to your Sister,

Rebecca.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth H. Gilman, New York.

Cincinnati Dec 29th 1823

Never my dear Eliza did I so much rejoice, as when I open'd my beloved Winthrop's letter of 2^d inst, and discover'd your own hand writing. My mind—so much torn

by afflictions, was full of fears, of the worst kind, for your health—and I hardly dared to break the seal. I have thought of you my dear child, with great anxiety since we received Robert's letter, you suffer'd so much, the first time you was attacked with that distrefsing complaint. But the Lord, who hears the cries of his children in distrefs, and is often seen in the moment of danger, has again appeared for your relief. I trust my dear that you called upon him in your distrefs, and he has answered your prayers. May you be enabled to give yourself to him, through the blefsed Redeemer, which is your duty and privilege. Remember he has said, whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my father who is in heaven. And O remember his dving command Do this, in remembrance of me. It is of little consequence whether we attach ourselves to a Presbyterian or Episcopal church, provided they hold to the Deity and atonement of Christ. Without these fundamental doctrines, the hope of a sinner is destrovd and the whole fabrick falls to the ground. my dear Eliza are convinced of these important truths and O how it would rejoice my heart could I know that my beloved Mary and her husband were also establisha on these all important points. Blefsed be God, there is a throne of grace — and a God who hears our prayers.

We have received a letter this week from your sister dated 24th ulto. She says they are all well—her little son resembles Elizabeth—only he has black eyes. Rebecca says "you have probably heard a confirmation of the death of Mrs Thompson's three children. Mr Thompson died first. Both himself and his wife were sensible to the last moment, and she was almost constantly in pray-

er".

We are now through mercy, as well as usual. Arthur's health seems rather delicate—but I think is improving. Your Pa'a complains of sciatica, and I expect every day he will be confined to his chamber. He scarce alows himself to eat his meals. He rises in the morning before day, and at the Pork house until late at night. I am sure that Roberts Pork, will be the best that ever was—for I doubt whether there was ever such pains taken before.—I am





ROBERT HALE GILMAN
From a portrait owned by his nephew, Benj. Ives Gilman,
of Boston, Mass.

told that Mifs Mordewell is married to my favourite Mr Snodgrafs I hope you will renew your acquaintance with her, and tell her you wish to hear her husband preach. He is a very pleasant man—and I think you would be pleased with him — and the society you would find at his house. Is she a professor of religion? if not - I presume she will soon be—as I recollect hearing some time since, that she was very thoughtfull. Mr Lambden arrived this morning, from Philadelphia. Mr Morsell will commence housekeeping next Monday. Mr Wm L Jaudon, not before spring. Remember me most affectionately to all my dear children—tell Robert, I request he would always mention my beloved Mary's name, yours and Winthrop's in all his letters. — When he does not — I think some are sick—which is the reason of the omission. Your Paa says I must leave a page, for him to say a word to Robert. Be careful not to venture out too soon. Wear in the house, morocco shoes—and when you go out—wear double soled shoes - & cover yourself well with flannel. — That you may all be the peculiar care of heaven — is the dayly prayer of your affece mother My dear Son.

Your letter of 14th inst with Power of Attorney for Cozzens is at hand. My last was under date of 25th inst: fince which the competition in the Provision Market, has continued encreasing. Very prime Pork will now readily command \$2.50 & I shall be compel'd to pay that price, to make up some bbls of extra Mess. In general, the pork is not so good this year as usual, owing to an abundant crop of Acorns and Beechnuts, & rathar a short crop of corn. I have on hand about 80 bbls. Mess, 140 Prime, 200 kegs of Lard, & 25 hhds of Hams and Shoulders. The price of the latter, in pickle, as mentioned in your last (7 @ 8c' lb) at N York; exceeds my expecta-

^{1&#}x27;'They never wear muffs or boots and appear extremely shocked at the sight of comfortable walking shoes and cotton stockings. . . . They walk in the middle of winter with their poor little toes pinched into a miniature slipper, incapable of excluding. . . moisture.'' Dom. Man. Amer., ii, 135. Perhaps this may account for Mrs. Gilman's anxiety about going out at night and her daughter's wearing morocco shoes. The dress of the women of that day was perfectly unpractical in every particular.

tions, and would be much better than to sell here on contract at 4 cts - Therefore if you have good grounds to believe that the first quality will command that price, it would be well to omit making a contract, as it will not cost 2cts lb. to send them from this place to N York, including insurance. I wrote to Capt Pierce the 26th requesting him to be at Louisville the 1st of Feby & I shall repeat my directions, by the Scioto & Congress, which are to leave this the 31st for N Orleans. The River is quite high, no ice, & every prospect of an open Winter. White Beans are 40 cts bus! Will it answer to send 100 bbls, as Cargo for the Brig. I have thoughts of placing a Keg of Lard in the Centre of a bbl of Beans. The plan of putting the article in tin Cannisters, is novel, & no doubt will keep it perfectly good for years. There are plenty of Stone Jars here, but I do not like the Shape. The pork which I have purchased (527 Hogs) cost on an average about 1.87. Average wt 180 lbs - The best quality is yet to come in. For reasons, heretofore mentioned, I have not made any further arrangements with Parsons respecting a Schr. If he should build, I could not superintend his Vefsel, & a Steam Boat at New York. The latter would be most agreeable by far, provided the means can be easily commanded. I am very glad to hear that my dear fon Winthrop is to prosecute his studies at a French School, & have no doubt of his success. The Rob Roy arrived at New Orleans the 6th inst - No letters yet received. I calculate that you will receive the consignment of Tobacco &c, about this time, & shall hope for your report of its quality by the 15th of next month. The bbl of Pork Nº 219, I do not expect will pass the New York Inspection as Mess. I cannot account for Capt --- 's drawing on You for \$500 - It was an incorrect measure on his part; and you were wrong in coming under an unconditional acceptance. I hope you will not encounter the same hazard again, for any friend or relative, however dear to You, or respectable. There is something mysterious in this transaction, and I greatly fear the Captain has suffered himself to be imposed on by some friend. — It appears that your dear & lamented Brother, had taken up the amount of what will be coming

for the dividends on 10 Shares; & I have not yet been able to obtain a Dollar on account of your Shares; & it it now faid the amount will fall far short of the fum contemplated, in consequence of the expensive alterations & repairs, made last fummer. If you have anything very important to communicate, relative to commercial operations, it may be well to send a Duplicate to Knox & Mc-Kee. A Gentleman arrived here yesterday, in a Steam Boat from Wheeling 6½ days from Washington City! I think it will be quite necessary for your Brother B—to visit this Country very soon, to Superintend the operations of Mr Cozzens.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Chandler R. Gilman, New York.¹

Cincinnati, June 10th 1824

On my arrival at this place my dear Chandler, I had the pleasure of perusing one of your letters to your Pa'a, dated 15th ulto which I afsure you gave me, as your letters always do, much amusement and pleasure. I am happy to find you have at length concluded to begin your opperations at N York. As you cannot at present be with your Parents, you will find it very pleasant, as well as advantageous, to be near Robert, and where you can see Winthrop every day. As to Eliza, if we are not to reside in New York or near there — I shall have her with me, wherever it may be. Your Pa'a seems pleased that your Office is so far from Roberts.—He says the walk which you appear to dread this summer, will keep you in health. This he knows from experience. He ridicules your dyspeptic complaints—and concludes its all imaginary. He says of all things, a Physician should never let it be known that he is dyspeptic, or has any complaints whatever. For when that is the case, his employers will shun him altogether.

I do not like to have you breakfast on milk. You have always been accustomed to a fine cup of coffee in the morning—and I think it highly necessary for your con-

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

stitution. It will exhilerate your spirits, and keep you in health. I have been flattering myself that Robert would be able to procure some business for your Paa, at New York, in the Domestick line, or some other, and thought how happy we should be to hire a small house, in a retired spot, and have once more you—Eliza—and dear Winthrop in my family—and Benjⁿ as often as he could make it convenient. A kind Providence, who has the disposal of all events, only knows if we shall ever again be so happy. I have often in immagination, seen dear Robert and Mary, coming to see us, in the cool of the evening—and felt a pleasure which I cannot discribe, in visiting them, & administering to their comfort. But heaven only knows if such happiness is for me.

Your account of Eliza, and Winthrop—and of Robert's family—gave us much pleasure—and I do anticipate the time, when I shall sit and look at you all—as I once did—and experience a pleasure which none but a Mother can feel. We have been expecting a letter from Robert for the four last mails—and your Paa is anxious in the extreme. We are almost afraid to hear. I hope you will pafs as much time at his house, as you can spare. For depend on it, 'tis a great advantage for you to be introduced into such company as you will find there. I hope you will avail yourself of every Opportunity to visit medical gentlemen of the first respectability. We are pleased that you have become acquainted with Doct Mott—he is I'm told very plain in his manners—not unlike my favourite—Doct Parrish—and much respected.

You are now my son, forming your character for life. Every eye will be upon you. Let your first desire be to respect religion. There are very few, but would rather employ a religious Physician—or one who respected religion, than any other. Let it therefore be seen, and known that you keep the sabbath in the way that God has appointed. If your Patients do not require your attention, never let your seat be vacant in the house of God. Doctor Dorsey, who in his life time, always respected religion—and shew it by his constant attendance on publick worship—said to Mr Ralston on his death bed.—"I long to depart and be with Christ." I am not my son, particularly desirous that you should attend a Presby-

terian church—yet 'tis natural to suppose I should prefer it. There are a number of good preachers in N York. I think as a man of talents—you would be pleased with Mr Welfsley, -Mr Snodgrafs - & Mr Cummings. When in N York I heard the latter, and was really very much pleased. If Robert has hired a pew, & your sister goes with them - you had better go too. But above all things my son — be constant in your attendance on publick worship. There is a blefsing promised to those who forget not to assemble themselves together in the house of God. Your Brother Benin will leave us in the first steam boat. Arthur will wait and see if Robert wants him - if not, he will probably try to get into some store in this town. Your Paa is much deprefs with his late lofses—and sometimes talks of boarding in the country, to save expence. He longs for a little room, that he could call his own — where he could have his cup of coffee, as he use'd to. I am sorry you was disappointed in the watch, when you said I had promised you a gold one, I thought you had been dreaming. If I did - I must have thought of your dear deceased Brother's—and thought that Benjⁿ had a gold one. But as he had none—but the one we sent you—your Paa thought as he was the oldest—it was most proper that he should have it. Of course sent Benjamin's to you. However—he thinks it highly necessary as you are a Physician—that you should have one that will keep perfect time - and I believe has concluded to send you his that he has worn so many years. If so — I hope you will never part with it — but ever keep it in remembrance of an Affectionate father, whose greatest wish is to make his children happy. I wrote my dear Mary last week and shall write Eliza and Winthrop, by Benjⁿ, if I have time. That you may be prosperous and happy is the prayer of your Affectionate Mother

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Mrs. John S. Miller to Elizabeth H. Gilman, Cincinnati, Ohio. 1

Lebanon, April 15, 1825 I have lately received, dear Eliza, a letter from Ma'a

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

dated 7th March and a few days previous one from your self of the 8th inst. We were surprised to find you had not at that time heard of the birth of our little son as Mr. Miller wrote to Papa the same day he was born and sent the letter to Natchez by a man who happened to be going immediately who said it was put on board a steamboat just ready to sail for Louisville - and I have since written myself to Mama. A week before your letter arrived Mr. Robitalle had sent Mr. Miller word that there was a barrel &c at his store for us. We immediately sent John and the horse-cart and had them bro't home, and for the precious work-stand, the barrel of cranberries and all the numerous articles our dear Parents sent us, we return our sincere thanks. As soon as I discovered what the barrel contained I exclaimed that Mr. Tichenor should have some, and I found on reading Ma'a's letter in the work-stand drawer that it was also her wish, accordingly Mr Miller who went to town in the buggy a few days afterwards took in about a third, presenting them in Mama's name and they were received with many thanks. I also sent some to Mrs. Huntington and to one or two of our neighbors, to whom they were a great treat. Mama would have been amused to have witnefs'd the delight of Elizabeth, Jane and John Gibbons upon discovering that Grandma had sent them sugar-The little girls were equally pleased with their needle-books; E. chose the silk one and Jane was as much pleased with the morocco one. Upon opening the second drawer I was as much delighted as the children to find two elegant caps for our little Joseph. They are both beautiful and the lace such as I could not procure at Natchez, for I tryed, but the work on yours is splendid and I am much indebted to you for taking so much trouble for the little fellow; Mama says you thought you had made it too small, but it is considerably too large for him at present. I shall do it the greatest honor I can; that is, shall let him wear it for the first time when he is presented in baptism. I had no idea Mama intended sending me a bonnet and was quite surprised to find the workstand contained a handsome black leghorn, which I indeed wanted to save my other, which being white with

white trimming is easily defaced. Mr. Miller says you have sent us such a load of things that Ma'a must let him pay for my bonnet and he intends enclosing 20 dollars in this letter for that purpose, and tell Ma'a she need not say a word against it for he will always have his own way. The bonnet Miss Carroll brought me was 30 dollars. Of course it is fine and handsomely trimmed much in the same way that the black one is. Mama divined what I happened to want, when she procured the corset laces, tape, sewing silk, hooks and eyes &c for me, for I go to town so seldom and when I do go have so little time for shopping that I am often in want of these little matters, and Mr. Miller dont like the trouble of shopping for small articles. I am also much obliged to dear Ma'a for sending your dress for a pattern and admire the taste displayed in the trimming. In making mine, however, I shall omit the gathers and trimming in front, as it is so different from anything worn at Natchez that

it would be considered the extreme of fashion.

The road to town has never been so bad since I have lived in the country [as it is at] present owing to the excessive rains and heavy travelling of cotton wagons, and I had not been to town since my illnefs, till last Saturday (the day following being Communion Sabbath at our church) we went down with little Joseph and a servant, and alited at Mr. Tichenor's door where we found the family all well and looking out for us. They all admired the babe and said they never saw a child of his age take so much notice; indeed the truth was, he had had his head covered with his cloak from the time he left our own door and when he arrived there was glad to look about a little. After tea we went to church and heard an excellent sermon from "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. On Sunday morning Mr. Potts preached again from the words—"Do this in remembrance of me". I thought of you frequently during his discourse; indeed I never hear a good sermon nor read anything very striking and good but I involuntarily exclaim to myself—"O, that dear Papa and Eliza, and all could hear this". Indeed, dear Eliza I feel the importance of these things so much; the shortness of life, the instability of all

earthly happiness and the unspeakable peace which the christian enjoys whose heart sets loosely to the things of this world and whose hope is in heaven; that I cannot but most earnestly wish all who are dear to me to possels this "pearl of great price". True, it is sometimes a "strait and thorny road"—the soul of the believer is tryed and tempest-tossed; his greatest warfare is within. As Hannah Moore says—"Here his spirit truly labours. He has to watch as well as to pray that his best intentions do not mislead his judgment; that his moderations do not freeze nor his zeal burn. He has to control his patience at the defeat of his most wisely conceived plans. He finds that his obedience is incomplete; that his warmest affections are languid, perhaps his best intentions not realized, his best resolves not followed up. In this view, tho' he is abased in dust and ashes in looking up to God as the fountain of perfection, he is cheered in looking up to Him also as the fountain of mercy in Christ Jesus. He has to watch against cold and heartlefs prayer, he has to struggel against over-anxiety for temporal things. He has in short to watch over a long list of errors, sins and temptations", but dear Eliza altho' he is humbled he is not discouraged—he looks to his Creator not as a severe judge, but as an indulgent father, "who knoweth our frame, who remembereth that we are dust", and who will pardon our iniquities and accept our feeble efforts for the Redeemers sake.

I have scarcely room to say we are all well, and Mr. Miller joins me in love to Papa, Mama and yourself. Write soon to Yours Affectionately, Rebecca.

P. S.—The work-stand arrived without any injury.

Mr. Miller has purchased a pew, the 5th from the pulpit on the broad isle and on the right hand of the minister, which he can at any time sell for what he gave—\$125. He has also bought 153 acres of land which connects his two tracts; about one-half very rich, the rest poor—at \$300. I was opposed at this purchase as I thought it looked like fixing on this country, but he says it will make the place much more valuable, sell better, and keep out intruders.

On Sunday Mr. Potts in addressing those who were

not altogether indifferent to the truths of religion, said—"Be not satisfied with your present attainments. Be severe, watch, seek—those that seek shall find, but for those who do not seek there is no hope".

I wish we had something good to send dear Ma'a, but we have nothing here which you have not at Cincinnati,

except cotton.

I partook of a very fine cramberry tart at Mrs. T's, and she says they are the largest, finest and in the best preservation of any she ever saw

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Shortly after beginning his life in New York as a practicing physician Dr. Chandler R. Gilman married (1), November 5, 1825, Serena, daughter of Martin and Mary F. (Seton) Hoffman, of New York. This was the first "Serena" in the Gilman family, a name which has now been used for four generations.

During this year Thomas Poynton Bancroft was engaged in business at Cincinnati with Mr. Putnam, of Salem. Mr. Bancroft had married in 1822, Hannah Putnam. Their children were: Ellen Bancroft, and Robert Hale Bancroft, of Boston, Mass., who inherited the old Hale house in Beverly, in which Mrs. Joseph Gilman spent her childhood. Mr. Bancroft died at New Orleans in 1852. Benj. Ives Gilman, Jr., was packing pork in Terre Haute, Ind., at the time of this letter.

Benj. Ives Gilman, Jr., to Thomas P. Bancroft, Salem, Mass.

Dear fir New York October 31st 1826

Your letter of 28th inst. has this moment been handed to me, and I am glad to hear you speak so encouragingly of your Aunt's health. You say there was a remark in my letter respecting \$800. Providence Money which you did not understand. I do not recollect what that remark was, & cannot refer to it, not having a copy of my letter. But of this item, if you will examine your two Accounts, you

will find that you are credited, in the account transmitted. by my Father with \$1000. Prov. money recd from B. & I.— When he arrived at Cincinnati, finding they could not be passed there, he handed \$800 of them to me to be credited you at Terre Haute. I handed them over to Linton, & he credited your a/c, as you will see on reference to the same. So you see you are twice credited with \$800, and having rec^d a credit at Terre Haute, you should receive a debit at Cincinnati. But you are not debited at Cincinnati; therefore you ought to be charged "on the Cincinnati Books" Quod erat demonstrandum. I hope you can make a sale of your contracts, and have the pleasure of spending the winter with your Family and Friends at Salem. I have made up my mind to commence my journey on Thursday and expect to be at Terre Haute by the 20th of November. If you were going out in the course of the month I think I would wait for you, but from your letter I presume it is quite doubtful. — Should you go to Cincinnati, we must be neighborly, and see as much of each other as we can. If you will make me a visit at Terre Haute, I will give you a Ball, to commence at 2 P. M. and end at 6 A. M., as is the practice, you know.— You shall be fed on tender lines, Grouse & Venison Steaks, & by way of finale, or "Grande Floorishe", you shall have a magnificent Wolf Hunt on Fort Harrison Prarie, with Forty chosen men, & Old Billy Durham's Dogs.—Lausee! what a time we should have?—Hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you in course of the winter and with my best respects to your Uncles Family

I am Your Friend & Ser^t B. I. Gilman jr Please say to M^r M. B. Ives, that owing to Military parades, the Boot makers have not had any time for work the last week. I called on M^r Benton this morning, and if he can get the Boots down in time for this afternoon's boat they shall be sent. If not, they will certainly go in the next boat, under charge of the Steward. I dont think much of this said M^r Benton.

The demand for Pork is steady in this market, but the prices Keep low. They are considered at the very lowest rates. I hope there will not be a lofs on that at Providence. But we must take things as they go. I should be satisfied to sell at present prices for Cash. There would





JOHN S. MILLER
From a miniature owned by his granddaughter.
Mrs. Brant (Jane Coe), of Rolla, Mo.

be no advantage in selling on a credit as the presumption is that prices must improve. However, you must do as you think is best. I shall be mighty sorry if I dont get back what I paid.

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John S. Miller to Arthur Gilman, New York (rough draft).

Lebanon 17 Oct. 1827

Dr Arthur

I have no doubt you have heard of the distrefsing occurrence on board of the Arelia before this can reach you, She died in my armf the 5th Oct. 3 Ock P. M. off Salt Key Bank Lat 24.16, Long. 80.21. She was perfectly senfible to the laft, & spoke to me two minutes before she went out like an expiring taper. the interment took place the next day at 9 ock A. m. in the Gulph of Florida. Rachel was very kind and attentive. Cap. Thatcher has

tσ give him a line to you.

We arrived in New Orleans on the 12th inft. on the 13th
I left Rachel on board of the Arelia in care of Cap.
Thatcher, M^r Fifk & M^r Bowers.

placed me under great obligations for his kindness to me & my family during the passage. I have taken the liberty

Cap. Thatcher will deliver you a barrel of sugar & the trunk. The bandbox &c remained in the care of Rachel.

We arrived at Natchez on the 15th 11 ock A. M. went up to Mr Tichinors, they arrived the day before all well. Mr Fifk is at Cincinnati Mrs F. has recover'd her health. We remain'd two hours at Mr T's & set out for home & arriv'd at 8 P. M. My two little boys are much improved in health. I am (Thank God) as ufual. my negroes are all well as is also Mr Penny—they have made me an excellt crop of cotton confidering the drouth. The yellow Fever is in Natchez—there are many of the inhabitants out this way. Some of my friends have called to see me and Mr Rowan & Mrs Tichinor enquired particularly after your health. Kifs my dear Elizabeth & Jane for their Father. Remember me to my Friends and accept my best wishes for your health & welfare and my earnest invitation to you to come and spend the winter with y^r Friend J^{no} Miller

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth H. Gilman, Philadelphia, Pa.¹

New York, Nov. 10th, 1827

By your Pa'a's request, Saturday Evening

It becomes my painful duty, my dear Eliza, to inform you that your dear sister and my darling child is no longer an inhabitant of this world. By this evening's paper we have an account of the "Arelia's" arrival at New Orleans and that Mrs. Miller died on her passage to that place. We have heard nothing more — but shall probably receive a letter from Mr. Miller by mail next week. Although we had reason to expect this intelligence, yet we all cherished a hope that the voyage would prove beneficial and that her precious life would be prolonged for many years. But a righteous God, whose ways and thoughts are not as ours, has seen fit to take her from this vale of tears to a state of perfect happiness, where no sin can enter and where all tears will be wiped from her eyes. You have now no sister, my dear Eliza; you are alone. O, follow her example as far as she followed Christ. Do not be afraid to own him for your Lord and your God. Come out from the world and make a profession of your love to him and make up my loss. Then will be own you before the great day before an assembled universe. Your dear departed sister was a sweet, humble Christian. She was perfectly free from bigotry and her heart was full of love to every human being. Her trials were great but they were the means of weaning her from the world, and ripening her for a blessed imortality. Our lofs which is great is no doubt her unspeakable gain. Her dear children are all too young to feel their lofs; the two little girls weep, but it is from seeing our distrefs more than feeling their lofs. Poor Arthur has passed so much of his time with his dear sister for these two years past that he feels her lofs most sensibly. You must, if possible, procure some articles of morning; a bombazean gown, etc. I wrote you last Saturday or Monday and sent your trunk Monday last by the Transportation Line.

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

But you have not acknowledged the receipt. We have received intelligence of the death of poor James McMinn. He died in August on a trading voyage down the Mississippi, without a friend to close his eyes. Your Pa'a will write to his brother tomorrow and give him the sad intelligence. Take good care of your health, my dear daughter and write soon to your poor afflicted mother, [Letter dictated and signed] Hannah Gilman To Miss Elizabeth H. Gilman

at Mrs. Mary Sargents
Chestnut St near 13 St.
Philadelphia
Pa.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to John S. Miller, Lebanon, Miss.¹

New York Dec. 2nd, 1827

With anguish of heart did we read in a New Orleans paper the painful inteligence which your letter to Arthur. my dear Mr. Miller, has confirmed. And is it possible that my darling child is no longer an inhabitant of this world? Is it possible that her precious body is now a prey to the monsters of the great deep? The horrid thought is almost too much for human nature to support. O for that sweet submission and pious resignation which shone with such lustre in the character and life of my dear departed daughter. Although we had reason to expect this distressing inteligence, vet we did cherish a hope that the voyage would prove benificial, and that her precious life would be prolongd for many years. But a righteous God whose ways and thoughts are not as our's has seen best to take her from this vale of tears to a world of spotlefs purity, where no sin can enter, and where God will wipe all tears forever from her eyes. Your dear departed wife was a sincere and humble Christian. She was perfectly free from bigotry, and her heart was filled with love to her God and to every human being. Her protracted sufferings were the means of weaning her

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

from the world and ripening her for a blefsed immortality. It is my great consolation, and I doubt not my dear son it is yours also, to reflect on her humility, her sweet submission and pious resignation to the divine will. I love to dwell upon it.

Your dear little girls are not old enough to feel their loss. They weep to see our distress, but seem ignorant of the cause. O may we have wisdom and grace to train them up for God. Jane said to me, Grand Ma'a who will make Papa's linnen? Elizabeth says, who will get the

good things for Papa.

Dear children—my heart yearns with pity and love towards them. They are my greatest comfort. Do not take them from me so long as I live. — When I am gone they must look to you for protection. And as it was the wish of dear Rebecca to place them under my care, I know you will consent. We are all exceedingly attached to them, and they improve astonishingly. They bring home the medal as often as twice a week. They write so well that they will soon be able to write you a letter which they look forward to with great delight. The Arelia arrived yesterday after an excessively boisterous passage of thirty days. Poor Rachel has been quite sick, but is now convalescent. The trunk I shall keep and make up the clothing for the children as necessity may require. I will keep an account of their school expenses &c. and remit the same to you, as I know it will be your wish. I thank you, my dear, for the present you sent me, and was surprised that you should be so thoughtful. But it is just like yourself. Soon after you left us Benjamin left us for Terre Haute, and Eliza went to Philadelphia to make Mrs. Sargent a visit. We expect her return this week. Arthur is so well as to be able, we think, to remain this winter in New York. Winthrop expects to pass the winter in the western country, and go down the river to New Orleans with a cargo, in the Spring. He will probably make you a visit.

I hope, my dear Mr. Miller, you will write as often as you can make it convenient, and tell us about the dear little boys. Elizabeth and Jane send love to Papa, John Gibbons and Joseph. The family all unite with me in

best wishes to yourself and the dear children. The bed—pillows—basket & contents, &c. were disposed of as you desired. From your affectionate Mother,

H. Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Dr. Peter G. Robbins, Roxbury, Mass.

New York, May 17th, 1828

This will be handed you, my dear brother, by Rachel Thomas, a woman of colour, who has lived in my family nearly two years. She has been lawfully married to Jacob Thomas eight or nine years. They have lived in perfect harmony, and she has proved herself one of the best and most affectionate of wives. About six weeks since, he took passage on the steamboat for Providence, and she has heard lately that he is in Boston. She knew nothing of his intentions, and has morned herself almost to death. She takes no comfort, and is nearly deprived of sleep, and now she is determined to go to Boston and if possible find him out and know from him the cause of his deserting her, and his future intentions respecting her. What makes his conduct more abominable is, he has been, and was when he left his wife, a Methodist preacher, preached in this City once in two weeks, and we all had the highest opinion of him as an honest African preacher. If Rachel should meet with any difficulty, do let her tell you her troubles and see that she is not abused. We all feel deeply interested for her and shall always love her for her uncommon affection for our family, and for her kindness and care of my dear departed daughter in the last scene of her distress in the vale of tears. The dear little girls are still with us and I hope will remain with us as long as we live, as my dear Rebecca often mentioned great satisfaction that they were under my care. I think that Mr. Miller will not take them from me. They go to school and have improved very much. How is dear sister-cousin Sally, and all your family? It is so long since I have heard from you

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

that I shall feel very impatient for Rachel's return; that I may know particularly how you are and how you look. It is time for you, my darling brother, to look old. You are now hastening on towards half a century. Make Jesus your friend and you will be safe. I too have lived in affluence, I have mixed with the gay and drank the cup of their pleasures, but I found no solid satisfaction until I had comfortable evidence of my interest in the sufferings and death of a crucified Redeemer. In a life of religion there are pleasures unalloyed. A peace of mind that the world cannot give. I hope and trust, my dear brother, that you have obtained that better part, that can never be taken from you. If so - give yourself to prayer. And may we persevere to the end and be prepared to meet our parents and friends among the blessed in mansions of everlasting rest. My family are all well, as usual, and unite with me in tender regards to you all. I shall write to brother Chandler by Rachel but as I do not know where he lives, I think I will enclose his letter in this. Rachel says she will walk out to Roxbury and give this letter to you herself. I hope you will write by her, and write particularly. Dont you think of visiting us again? Do, my dear sister, plan to visit us this summer, as you did before. Bring Chandler and Harriet with your dear selves and make glad the heart of your affectionate sister. H. Gilman.

Where is Chandler and Samuel? Give them my love.

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In 1829, Winthrop S. Gilman was packing pork at Laurenceburg, Ind., and as he was not quite twenty-one, his father came out to aid him in his business.

Benj. Ives Gilman to his wife, New York.

Lawrenceburg 3d Jan 1829

On my arrival here the 1st inst, I had the pleasure, My beloved Wife, of finding our affectionate Son Winthrop in good health & spirits.—As your Journals have always given me so much satisfaction, I will endeavour, from Memory, to detail the occurrences of the last eleven days.

After taking leave of New York (the 23^d ul^t) we proceeded as usual to New Brunswick, and soon after dark commenced our ride to Trenton where we arrived at 10 P.M. In the room where I lodged, there were two other persons, one of whom was afflicted with a violent catarh, and he coughed incefsantly until 1/2 past 3 and then concluded to rise — This left us 11/2 hour for sleep, for we had not closed our eyes before. On the 24th at 10 We landed at Philada & I had the pleasure of passing a few minutes with Eliza. She urg'd me hard to return to New York, but having put my hands to the plough I could not look back. After making sundry purchases I embark'd for Baltimore, where we arrived about 2 hours after the departure of the Stage. The delay was owing to the breaking of a valve, and we were obliged to ly 4 hours at Anchor in the Chesopeke. Christmass day was passed unpleasantly enough at Balto. The day was cold, and I only walk'd out once. This was to see the Catholic Cathedral a splendid Church. Service had not commenced. but I was gratified with the sight of some ancient & valued paintings. In order to obtain a good nights rest, I went to bed early & was foon asleep, but was awakened at ten, by two Frenchmen who lodged in an adjoining chamber. I suppose they had passed the day merrily, for they soon commenced singing, in imitation of Garcia (in the Barber of Seville) and kept it up until after midnight. On the 26th at 3 A. M. I took my Seat in the Mail Stage & arrived at Hager'stown at 8 P. M. I foon went to bed. and slept about an hour, but there was then fo much noise in the House, that I arose at 1/2 past ten; and at twelve

¹ Mrs. Trollope throws light on this part of Mr. GILMAN's trip. She was going the opposite way and begins: "We passed the night at Baltimore and embarked the next morning on board a steamboat for Philadelphia. The scenery of the Elk River, upon which you enter soon after leaving the port of Baltimore is not beautiful . . . at twelve reached the Chesapeak and Delaware canal; . . . walked two or three hundred yards to the canal where we got on board a pretty little decked boat, sheltered by a neat awning and drawn by four horses. . . . At one, we reached the Delaware river . . . got on board another of their noble steamboats; . . . reached Philadelphia at four. . ." Dom. Man. of the Amer., ii, 70.

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took my seat in the Stage, with the determination not to undress again until I faw Wheeling — At the end of this days journey (27th) we found ourselves at 10 P. M. on the top of the Allegany, in a very poor house. After partaking of an ordinary supper I wrapped myself in the old Plaid Cloak, & with my feet to the fire had one hours fweet sleep—At 12 OClock on the 28th we were again seated, and after a tedious day's ride, reach'd Washington at 1/2 past ten. While at Brownsville I found time to send a printed sheet, which I hope arrived in due course. At Washington I had another hours fweet sleep before the fire. At the usual hour (12) we resumed our seats, and at ten OClock (29th) set down to a good breakfast. The fatigues of the Journey were endured better than I expected, altho' the road was excessively rough, & caused many sciatic twinges. At Wheeling I was lamenting the detention in the Chesopeke, which delayed me one day, and prevented me from being on, in time to embark in the S. B. Reindeer. We found the River low, & it had been full of ice, so that our prospect appeared quite gloomy. We had not remained in this state more than one hour when the joyful found of a Steam Boat Gun echoed through the hills. In a few minutes we were fafe on board the Potomac, a fmall boat, crowded almost to fuffocation. We passed Marietta about midnight, and arrived, on the evening of the last day of the year at Cincinnati. I went to the Hotel to enquire for Winthrop but could obtain no information—After hunting out Mr. Wrights Store, and dwelling house, I found him and was told that Winthrop was at Lawrenceburgh. I returned on board the S. B. to lodge, and the next morning M^r Wright accompanied me to this place. I found Winthrop busily engaged, in casting up the weight of some Hogs & surrounded by half a dozen farmers, in Linsey Hunting Shirts. He did not see me until I had hold of his hand and spoke. — You can judge of his surprise. He says his health is excellent and that he has gained 10# in weight. Of his prospects in business, I must refer to his Letters. The Tavern where we reside, at first sight, does not appear promising. The bar-room answers all purposes, Parlour, Hall &c — In one of the recesses (by the side of

the fire) is a large Wash Stand (or Sink) to which all the guests resort in the morning. There are three doors to the room, one opening into the Street, and all generally open. On an average there are half a dozen Back Woodsmen, around the fire, and fometimes they take a little whiskey. Now for the bright side of the picture. The beds are neat & clean; the table pretty good and the Landlady very handsome, well-drefsed and very fond of Flowers—She has ten or a dozen pots & boxes with plants, which appear well—A lemon tree, Chrysanthemum & Wall-flower are in the number—What is still better she has a little son $2\frac{1}{2}$ years old, whose voice so perfectly resembles that of our dear Grand Son Ives, that you could not distinguish them, by their speaking—

Yesterday Thomas Baker (of Marietta) accosted me in the Street, and observed that he was going out to see Cap^t Crandon, who resides about two miles from this Town. I expressed my furprise and desired him to present my best respects. In about two hours I recd a very polite note from Mrs Crandon saying that She had sent a boy and horse and wished me to come immediately to their house, apologizing for Capt Crandon's not calling as he was quite infirm—I declined the invitation but observed that I would come out the first leisure moment. This morning I walk'd out to their farm and received a most hearty welcome. The Captain shews evident marks of old age, but is not much altered in his face - Time has robbed her of the roses & lilies of youth; but she is a good looking Matron, and I was surprised to find so much intelligence & good fense in one who has had fo few advantages.—In mind she is far superior to our friend the After half an hours conversation I return'd, Captain. first engaging to pass next Tuesday at "Pleasant Retreat." Before I went to see her, Mrs C—— had written to two of her friends in Town, desiring them to call on me, and to shew me the way to their place. One of them (Capt Vance who married a Grand Daughter of Gov St Clair) called upon me, and I suppose will be of the party on Tuesday.

¹ Benjamin Ives Gilman 3d, son of Robert Hale and Mary (Bordman) Gilman.

I was very glad to meet friends after so long a separation, and I was also glad from a selfish principle: for if Winthrop or myself should be taken fick, we should meet

with the kindest treatment from Mrs Crandon.

I wrote to You from Balto and to Arthur from Wheeling & Cincinnati, and I also forwarded a Newspaper to Eliza & one to A- from this place. After this my Communications must not be fo frequent. I know not whether you will be able to read this letter: the first page was written at Winthrops Warehouse where for want of a Chair, I sat on a new Lard keg; but finding the situation rather unpleasant, I adjourned to the Bar-room: where I am now writing by Candle-light. We have just been at Supper, where we had Hyson Tea & brown sugar (which I relish highly) with pork tenderloins, Indian Johnny Cakes, Crellers &c &c — Our dinners are not extraordinary, but the first day we had roast Turkey & Cranberry Sauce: So you can tell Mary that I presume the Land-lady is from Boston. The morning that I left Balto it was very cold, but in the course of the day it moderated; and when we were on the top of the Allegany, was uncomfortably warm, in the Stage - On the whole, I never found more pleasant weather in crossing the mountains at any season of the year-From Wheeling to Cincinnati, the beautiful Ohio was as Imooth as a mirror - The weather has now become cold & quite favourable for pork Merchants. We shall look with impatience for the arrival of your next Journal. Tell the Doctor to inform you if he should chance to have a new patient, & ask a certain young Gentⁿ of the family whether Gold Watches, dignified with the name of Chronometers, are in demand. If he does not effect a Sale soon, tell him I shall remind him of a bargain made for green Spectacles, as recorded in the history of the Vicar of Wakefield. At the Hotel (Cincin^a) I met Col^o Piatt who is quite well & in good spirits. We were alone in the great Parlour (it being a Ball night) and on my asking him some simple question he commenced talking & I verily believe would have continued until this time if I had remained quiet. Mr Wright informed me that Mr Root was very well-Mr Clark is still the fame visionary enthusiast. A poor match for Miss B—I dare not say who made it, although at so great a distance—Give my love to Mary & Serena—Ask the latter to present my best respects to her good mother. Remember me especially to M^r Starr & fay that I should have called on him the morn^g of my departure, if time had permitted. When you write to our dear Eliza, tell her that my health & spirits are good, and that (as usual) I am always last to leave the Breakfast table. Our friends at Marietta were all well a few days fince. Tell the Doctor that our Landlord is staunch for the present Administration as are most of the decent people whom I have met.

Your ever affectionate husband.

Benj^e Ives Gilman I believe Winthrop thinks my journey will "cost more than it will come to" I do not, however, despair of doing enough to cover my expences.

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BENJ. IVES GILMAN to his wife, New York

Lawrenceburgh 4 Jan 1829. Having so often been delighted, my beloved Wife, with your interesting letters, written in the Journal form, I have concluded to attempt an imitation, & altho the occurrences will be almost too trivial for a recital, still I am fure you will be pleased to hear of the daily movements of your absent Son. He left me this morning for Cina & took a letter for you, containing an imperfect sketch of my journey to this place. At 11 OClock I went to the Methodist Church. There were not more than fifty persons present. For half an hour we waited in Quaker-like silence, then one of the leading men commenced singing a hymn on the nativity. No one joined until the second verse, when one or two elderly females united. After waiting about twenty minutes, in the same stillness, one of the females began singing another Hymn, on the same subject, & in the chorus was joined by the man who first commenced. This had rather a pleasing effect.—At length the Preacher arrived: a sober modest young man, who gave us a very

good discourse, without the least rant. Text from Amos "Prepare to meet thy God"—The weather is very fine. Monday 5th — W — returnd about 1 OClock, with a letter from Benin and one from Arthur. I am not quite so well pleased with our boarding house, as was anticipated. The Chambers are miserably furnished, cooking bad & children noisy. Tuesday 6th. Agreeable disappointment, walk'd (with Capt Vance) out to Capt Crandons. We arrived about noon & found Mrs C & her husband quite well. They gave us a hearty welcome, & in short time 8 or 10 of their neighbours, came by invitation, to join us—At 4 we sat down to a sumptuous repast. Instead of Madeira, or Champague, we had what I very much prefer excellent Coffee. On the whole, the day passed off pleasantly. The Captain is feeble, but retains his faculties & has much of the garrulity of old age. Like many others, he is particularly fond of giving a very precise account of the disorders with which his wife & himself are occasionally afflicted. Capt Vance accidentally mentioned that he had been confined the preceding day by "sick head ach" - This was a fine text, & our old friend instantly commenced, in his slow, formal manner, informing us that his wife was much troubled with the same complaint He was much puzzl'd & could hardly make up his mind, as to the cause. He had his serious doubts whether the disease was occasioned by a "full stomach, a foul stomach, or an empty stomach'. On the whole he was inclined to believe that it proceeded from "an empty stomach" for said he (addressing Capt Vance) you know if "the stomach be empty"—at this time I thought it high time to interfere (a young Lady being in the room) and abruptly asked him a question relative to a gale of wind, he had encounter'd when in the "Ship Muskingum". My effort was successful, otherwise we should doubtlefs, have heard much more about his Wife's stomach, of remedies, & all the particulars of their operation. Colo Pike, father of our deceased friend the General, is Capt Crandons nearest neighbour. On our return home we call'd to see him. He is near 80, very feeble but in good spirits, & appears much gratified when strangers call, who were acquainted with his lamented son. Wed-

nesday 7th. Yesterday W— rode into the Country to examine a drove of Hogs.—It detained him so long that he was compel'd to stay all night at Elizabeth-town. In the evening it commenced raining violently & continued all night—He return'd this morning (between the Showers) but cover'd with mud. He is very imprudent often, riding out, without taking his Cloak. It is now wet & warm, very bad weather for pork & there were One hundred hogs on hand this morning. Thursday 8th W was at the Warehouse last evening until 11 at which hour the workmen finished salting all the meat on hand. This being the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, preparations are making at a Hotel, on the opposite side of the street, for a splendid Ball. It is now 1/2 past 4 & the Ladies are collecting. The streets are as muddy as when you used to attend Balls at Marietta. Friday 9—W rec^d an invitation, but declined. A young man from Salem (M^r Appleton) joined the party. He says the dancing commenced at sun-set & continued until 5 this morning—There were 40 Ladies present. One half from Kentucky. — Saturday 10th. Last night the wind chang'd to N W & it is now very clear & cold. There are 3 or 4 persons here today (Pork Merchants from Boston) one of whom has just returnd from the Barbers Shop. He was disappointed, the Barber saving "he could not shave any more Gentⁿ this week, being out of soap", but he had sent to Cincinnati for a Cake, which would be down in the "Lawrenceburgh Packet" on Monday next. Sunday 11th W— is gone to Cina in a S.B. Our Landlord is one of your obliging, negligent, good natur'd, indolent characters. He will sit all day with both doors open, in the most severe weather, and if you complain of cold, he calls a boy to pile on the hickory wood, until there is a fire large enough to roast an Ox.—The doors of the front entry are both open from sun-rise until bed-time. The water used in the family, is drawn from the River, and stands in a hogshead, in the street. The Maid Servant carries it, as wanted, thro' the front entry to the

¹ In one of Winthrop S. Gilman's later letters from New York to his wife, when his health began to fail, he wrote that his brother, Dr. Chandler R. Gilman, said he had used up his vitality by too strenuous work.

kitchen: of course it would be quite too much trouble to shut the doors. — Monday 12th Weather continues very cold. Wrote to Benjⁿ & to M^r Whitney. Sent a Lawrenceburgh paper to the Doctor contg Gov Rays unique inaugural address. W- return'd at 8 P M. Not any letters from home: much disappointed. Tuesday 13th. Notwithstanding the unfavourable report of the Bostonian, I concluded to try the "Lawrenceburgh Barber" it being too cold to shave at home. I found him with his front door wide open and a stove full of green wood. In answer to my request to shut the door, he said the room would be fill'd with smoke. This, I observed, would not be so great an inconvenience as the cold. When he commenced his operations, I shut my eyes very close & was not much annoyed: but the poor Barber was almost suffocated. Master, said he, (with the tears streaming down his sooty cheeks) will you please let me open the door "a little bit": the smoke is so thick I cannot see your face. After the door was opened he observ'd, that he "never saw a white man before, who could beat him standing smoke"—He says his business is growing (being the Village shoe-black, as well as Barber) for the Gentⁿ of the Town formerly only shav'd & had their shoes black'd once a week, but now they begin to come twice. Wednesday 14th Mild cloudy weather & very muddy streets. W- rode into the country after hogs, & return'd at 8 in the eve well spatter'd with mud. This business is very fatiguing and he will not spare himself in the least by day or night. Thursday 15. Same disagreeable cloudy weather. W— is gone down the River to a Town called "Rising Sun"-For the last two days I have been unusually busy at the Warehouse from morning until late at night. Superintending my Cutters, weighers, packers, &c, &c. Friday 16 - W - return'd this morning & only remained long enough to take breakfast, then set out on another tour. He rode 36 miles vesterday (14 after dark). He exposes himself very much, but appears to enjoy excellent health.—Saturday 17. W— return'd this morning after a tiresome & fruitless jaunt. My time is constantly employed at the Warehouse. When Saturday night comes. I think more than ever, of "home sweet home", & wish for the priviledge of the weekly labourer. who returns to his cottage fire side on this peaceful evening: so eloquently & feelingly described by Burns. Monday 18th No preaching. Our indolent Landlord has the most noisy, unmannerly children I have ever seen: excepting one daughter, who being constantly with her mother, behaves very well. The two eldest Cubs (13 & 11) will shove themselves between strangers & the fire, & with the greatest sang froid look one in the face, & whistle most outrageously. Altogether it is a most uncomfortable house. The Landlady was married at 17 is now 34 & has 7 children living: of course she cannot do much more than take care of her babies. They have no milk but what is purchased by the quart: yet a good Cow may be purchased at \$8 & corn to feed her for 18 cts bushel. We drink our tea without milk & sweetened with brown fugar — The Coffee is generally very weak & our dinner badly cook'd: still we drink & eat with sharp appetites, & are in good health. Monday 19 - Capt Vance invited me to take tea with him, & regretted Winthrops absence— There were feveral very agreeable persons at the party— Capt V— is a Widower. His eldest daughter (a young Widow with one Son) presides in the family. His other daughter, Catherine, enquired particularly for Eliza, She, too is married (to a Physician) & has one son. They are both charming Women, fing fweetly, and are pious members of the church. - W- return'd this eve with an interesting journal for him & two newspapers. count of the "Female Monster" I think very just; not more severe than true. The poetry "Youngling of the Flock" is the most exquisite thing I have read for many vears. — When Mifs Frances Wright was last at Cin^a she took a fancy to an Englishman of the name of Jennings, who had been a Universalist Preacher, then a

¹ Mrs. Trollope came to the United States with Miss Wright and visited her at her plantation, Nashoba, near Memphis, Tenn. Miss Wright was an Englishwoman who had a desire to educate the Negro and intended to start a school on her plantation for that purpose. It failed, and Mrs. Trollope evidently considered Miss Wright an enthusiast without much judgment. The gossip Mr. Gilman repeated probably began because at that time it was unusual for a woman to do any public work. Mrs. Trollope says that "she cannot recall the self-devotion with which she gave herself to it [i. e. her project] without admiration."

Swedenborgian, & lastly an Owenite.² He has a family here, but Fanny wanted him for a scribe & travelling companion, and actually gave M^{rs} Jennings \$300 (some say \$500) for her husband. My information came from M^{rs} Burnet (as well as others) of course I cannot doubt of its correctness. With the price of her husband, M^{rs} Jennings purchased some Merchandise, & is now keeping a small shop in lower Market S^t—I think she has made an

excellent bargain for herself & children. Tuesday 20. Some laughable occurrences took place at Cina a few months fince. A Female appear'd at the vellow springs (near Dayton) very beautiful, accomplished & well drefsed, and was attended by a very obsequious female servant. Her manners were so fascinating that everyone was charm'd, & she came to Town with a respectable Lawyer & his family. She was introduced to all the Balls, Cotillion partys &c &c and all the Bachelors & young Beaux were striving to gain favour, but no one was so great a favourite as your Cousin H. S. She took lodgings with our friend Mrs Mack. & in her serious moments, when she unburthened all her sorrows, she represented herself as a young Widow who had become disgusted with the vanities of this world, & being a Catholic she had come to Cina to bury herself in a Nunnery. This passed very well for a time, but Mrs M — became suspicious. Very soon the Lady thought best to change her residence, and (as is said) with the assistance of your Cousin, was conveyed to Lawrenceburgh. Here she fortunately found a noted Lawyer (Amos Lane) whom she recognized as her Uncle, & who acknowledged her to be his niece. She remained here until Mrs Lane & her Daughters began to remonstrate, and then step'd on board a Steam Boat (after having taken an affectionate leave of her dear Uncle) and arrived safely at Pittsburgh, where her uncommon charms captivated a respectable Citizen, who led his prize to the Altar (nothing loth) and so ended the Adventures of the Nun. How very enterprising, my dear, are some of your sweet sex, and how easily they

² Robert Owen was a manager of mills in Wales, who advocated a system of community of property and started his experiment at New Harmony, Ind., in 1824. He was unsuccessful and returned to England.

dupe the wise "Lords of the Creation"—Wednesday 21. Owing to some want of system, we do not breakfast until 1/2 past 9.—For some days past, at my suggestion, we have had but two meals, combining the dinner & supper. This has caused some uneasinefs, particularly to the harmlefs young man from Salem (Mr Appleton) who was never from home before. He has moan'd so piteously for his third meal, that in compassion for his sufferings, I mentioned his distrefs to the Landlady. So we shall hereafter have the canonical number of meals. A hearty breakfast between 9 and 10. Dinner at 2 and a meat supper at 5—Thursday 22^d Remarkably fine weather for W-s business, & the days bright & clear funshine — What we used to call excellent Sugar Weather. Friday 23 Same fine weather. Honey bees out & blue birds finging in the Gardens.—All day extremely busy at the Warehouse. Saturday 24 Last evening we were invited to Gen¹ Dills (whose wife was the eldest sister of Louisa S^t Clair) — We had an excellent supper. Room full of young Ladies, & Winthrop was quite sociable. I believe it was the first evening passed in Ladies society, since he left N York: altho invitations have been frequent. Sunday 25th Attended Methodist Meeting, but not so well pleased with the Preacher, as with the unafsuming young man whom I heard three weeks since. This person (too vociferous for me) is considered, however, by the Society as one of their best and most powerful preachers. I was pleased with his liberality for he warmly eulogized Socrates, Plato & other heathen Philosophers. Perhaps he would not have been quite so liberal if he had been speaking of Calvin or Toplady. In mentioning the vexations & difficulties which S^t Paul encountered among the Corinthians he said "the church at Corinth was made of as rough & raw materials, as any one which had been gather'd since God made the World"—Monday 26th Dull, gloomy & spiritlefs. The night dark & stormy. Very anxious about W— he was to have return'd this afternoon. I hope my dear little Grand Daughters, Elizabeth & Jane pursue their studies assiduously & that our equally dear Grandsons W^{m 1} & Ives are training in the right

¹ Wiliam Henderson, second son of Robert H. and Mary (Bordman) Gilman.

paths. They are both fine boys & I feel anxious that they should be govern'd steadily & most cautiously. Few persons are aware of how much depends on early imprefsions. Tuesday, 27th I have been very anxious all this day about W— He did not return until 8 oClock this evening. Another of your precious journals has arrived & has been read with usual avidity. I had flatter'd myself that this communication would have been directed to me. Wednesday 28—Busily engaged at the Warehouse. W— is preparing for New Orleans & I hope by going down early, he will fooner be able to return. Thursday 29 Last night the weather became cold & snow fell 6 in: deep-I was pleased to learn, from the Journal, that you took an interest in the plants. The charm, however, for me is broken, and I shall never renew my attachment to the flower garden. If Robert can find an opp^y of disposing of your collection, I think it best to sell the whole: unlefs you wish to reserve one or two favourites. Friday 30 — Extremely busy sending off provisions & preparing for W-s departure. Saturday 31 At 5 oClock P M our dear Son W- "the Youngling of the flock" took leave of Lawrenceburgh & went on board the Velocipede for Cina where he is to embark for N.O. May a kind Providence guard & protect him, during his long proposed absence. Sunday 1 Feby A Presbyterian Clergyman preach'd at the Methodist Church. He is an Agent of the "Home Mission Society" At the close of an appropriate sermon, he proposed establishing an auxiliary society at Lawrenceburgh, which was carried into effect. They are now to have a respectable Preacher (from the Princeton Seminary) who is to have \$400 pr. an — He is to receive all that is collected here, & the balance is to be paid by the Parent Society at N York. Monday 2d Very windy & cold, At 9 P M our dear Son W-landed from a S.B. and staid an hour with me. This last short interview, was as pleasant as unexpected. He is extremely anxious to arrive at New Orleans in time to make a remittance to A - by the packet of 15th inst-Tuesday 3d & Wednesday 4th Busily engag'd both days winding up W-s business. I now feel the want of his company very much, & am quite lonesome and forlorn. Weather very mild. Thursday 5th rode to White Water 12 miles up the Mi-

ami, to close a contract made by Winthrop. It was quite cold & snowed almost all day. Friday 6th Employed all day dlvr^g pork sold by W.—Saturday 7th Extremely busy packing & deliver pork, Dined at Mrs Pinkhards (Cathe Vance) in company with Mrs Crandon. This day has been one of the pleasantest, I ever witnefsed in Febv. Mild as May. Sunday 8th Warm, rainy morn^g at 10 OClock the wind suddenly shifted to N West & blew a gale, attended at first with heavy rain, then hail, & afterwards, a sudden snow storm, which continued until sunset. The most violent change in the weather, I ever witnefsed. Now very cold. Monday & Tuesday 10th Engaged as usual closing up W-s businefs. It is now finished & I shall be off in the first S.B. Mr Whitney made an appointment to be at Cina this day & I am very anxious to meet him. Wednesday 11th Quite idle, waiting for a passage. Thursday 12th—At 10 OClock heard the welcome shout "a Steamer in Sight"—I hastened to the landing, and at 4 OClock P.M. was in comfortable quarters at the "Broadway Hotel" kept by Arthur Fleurie, an old acquaintance from the neighbourhood of Marietta. Mr Whitney has not arrived—Detained by the severe Weather. Friday 13—Last night was extremely cold (Ther: 5°) and the river is now full of ice. W-was off in good time, no Steam Boat can now move. Wrote to Arthur & enclosed a Check for \$425 on W-s a/c—Call'd on Mrs Mack, Mrs Selman, Mrs Benbridge & 3 grand children, Mrs Stover, Mrs Clark, and last upon Mrs Isaac Jones — All very well excepting Mrs Selman. In the eve your cousin H. Starr called on me. He is very well, much respected & a popular Lawyer. Saturday 14—Still very cold—Cin^a is much improved in buildings since I was last here, but it never had fo few charms for me. House Rent is high & fuel & provisions advanced 50 pr Ct since you was at Mrs Greenes—Sunday 15. Call'd at Mrs Greenes with the view of attended her to church, but she could not venture out on fuch an extreme cold day. I went to the old meeting house 1/2 an hour before service commenced & found Mrs Burnet there, superintending the Sunday School Teachers.—Mr Root is just the same, and has the fame peculiarity of manner. His Sermon was on a subject that I never heard discuss'd before in the pulpit.

The difference in the religious character of the sexes—I was highly pleased, & occasionally much amused, at his peculiar naiveté. His text was from the Acts of the Apostles (chapter & verse forgotten) "Of the chief Women not a few". - After a short exordium, he stated the fact that in the church, in Bible classes & in Sabbath Schools Females were in the proportion of 2 to 1 & how was this disparity to be accounted for? He answered his question by saving "They were made of finer materials, of more exquisite finish — More sensitive, more susceptible of Love, of hope, of faith & of charity - More attentive to the counsels & admonitions of their Pastors. Some men sneeringly say this is all owing to their imbecility & quote the words of St Peter 'they are the weaker vefsels'—This is a grofs perversion. The Apostle did not allude to their moral or mental qualities. - In truth Women have more decision of character, more firmness of purpose, more perseverance & more discriminating minds, than Men: and these facts are proven, by their seeking more ardently, & imbibing more readily divine truths". So far I agreed perfectly with the Preacher, as his statement of facts so precisely accorded with my own experience, for you know, My dear, that I have "many a time & oft" witnessed female "decision of character, perseverance" &c; had it been otherwise, I should now, probably, be surrounded, in this pleasant region, by my beloved wife & children: instead of being alone comfortlefs & forlorn. — But to return to the 2d head of the Sermon. Mr. Root observed "Other reasons can be given for females being in the proportion of 2 to 1 in all religious societies. They are more constant in their attendance on day meetings, night meetings, morning meetings & are much more attentive to their pastors. They do not (like unfeeling, obdurate man) shrink from the view of their minister, when he comes to pay his parochial visits, and with callous insensibility avoid his instructions" I confess I was not exactly pleased with this last observation, for I remember'd (that it so happen'd) I had never met Mr Baldwin, at our house. — This discourse, how-

¹ Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, corner of Greene and Mercer Streets, which Mr. Gilman's family attended in New York. They were living far up town in a three story brick dwelling in Prince Street near Broadway.

ever, was on the whole very satisfactory to me, and was really an admirable Eulogium on Woman. After Sermon M^r Root gave notice that he should visit M^r A & M^r B on Monday Mr C & Mr D on Tuesday & Mr E & Mr F on Wednesday.—I like this plan (altho' a novelty) of giving notice of parochial visits. All the angelic "weaker vefsels' can attend: while the brutified husbands are engaged in dull, debasing, earthly pursuits: providing food & raiment for their sensitive Wives. - Monday 16 still very cold. Call'd on M^{rs} Pierce—just the same—a fine hearty boy in her arms 8 m° old.—Arthurs letter of 5th came to hand yesterday & this day your always welcome journal (of 1st ins.) directed to Mr W. S. G.—was received, by the Lexington Mail. Tuesday 17—Last evening (by invitation) drank tea with Mrs G- Edeliza is very well & in good spirits. The family all appear prosperous & much improved, particularly Lewis. Wednesday 18 Rec^d a very friendly letter from M^r Ives. Thursday 19 Cold snow storm. If the weather has been so severe in proportion at N Y you will be sav'd the trouble of seeking a market for plants—On my arrival here, I found D' Smith had not been paid—This day I have been dunn'd for the amo of a medicine chest for the Caravan & have had to give security for payment. This has made me heart sick. - Friday 20 Wrote to Arthur & enclosed a Bank Check, on N Y Branch for \$1000— (one thousand dollars).

(Monday 23^d) I have now, my dear, done journalizing, and must request you not to judge of my feelings by the lightness or frivolity of the details. I have endeavoured to speak with gaiety, when all within me has been darkness and desolation.—One consolation only have I had, a hope that my exertions, however feeble, might be of advantage to our dear family—Tell Arthur his letter of 12th ins was ree^d yesterday—I will endeavour to send him some aid, if practicable, but he must not place any dependence on it, for the prospect is very, very miserable.—With great regret I learn that Chandler is to change his residence, & still greater that Arthur thinks of taking a house at \$450 rent—

Love to all Your ever affece husband

Benjⁿ Ives Gilman

Cin^a 23^d Feby 1829

The writing in this letter, is so crowded, that I fear you will not find it legible. We have had steady severe cold weather from the 8th inst to this time. The Ohio is completely frozen over, so that men walk over to Covington & Newport. I shall probably have to go down to Laurenceburgh, when the River opens, to ship the few bbls of Pork &c which are yet there. Mr Whitney cannot come down until a material change takes place in the weather, of which there is not yet any prospect. I am desirous of seeing the principal part of W-s Hams sold, or shipped, before I leave the place. Adieu—Monday eveng 23 Feby.

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Elizabeth and Jane Miller to John S. Miller, Lebanon, Miss.¹

New York May 14th, 1829

My dear Father:

I suppose you have sent to the Post Office two or three times for our letter of the first of May, But I hope you have not felt very uneasy about us, for we have been perfectly well. But the reason I did not write was, we have been moving from Prince St. to Chambers St. opposite the Park. Grandma and Aunt Eliza worked so hard that Aunt Eliza has been sick ever since. Grandma got Mrs. Davenport to board us one week while they were moving. She charged Grandma five dollars for us both. Jane did not like it much because we had nothing for our dinners but boiled rice and bread and butter, and we were glad to get back again. We all like this house very much. It has only one step from the street, and then you go

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

into two basement rooms; one is an eating-room with two large closets, the other is a lodging-room, the parlors are up-stairs in the second story, the third story has four lodging-rooms and the garret has two finished chambers, and you go out of the kitchen into a pretty little bedroom for the cook. Grandma says it is much more convenient than the Prince St. house but there is no garden, like that, and this yard is not half so large as that. Grandma is going to let us finish this quarter at Mrs. Davenport's. It will be out the 11th of June, and then we shall have to go to a school that is nearer. Grandma has to go with us to school every morning and the waiter comes for us at three o'clock, because it is so far that she is afraid we shall get lost or run over by horses. Before the quarter is out she is going around to see if she can get us into a good school and a cheap one. O how glad we were, my dear father, to receive your letter of March 14th where you said you had some thoughts of a journey to the North. Do pray, when you come, bring John Gibbons and Joseph; we do long to see them. Jane is very well. Her cheeks are red as a rose. The next time I write you will know where I am at school, and all about it. Please to kiss my dear brothers for me. * and for me too Papa from your dutiful daughters, Elizabeth H. Miller and Jane Gilman Miller.

* This line with her name was written by Jane without

any guide. [Note by Mrs. GILMAN.]

This is the first leisure moment that I have had, my dear Mr. Miller, since our removal from Prince St. and I will now devote it to you—and say we are all as well as usual with the exception of colds. I am very sorry to take the little girls from Mrs. Davenport but it would be impossible for them to go so far in the winter or stormy weather. I hope to be able to get them into a good school but I am afraid we shall have to give more for tuition here than up there. However, I cannot tell until I make the trial. In reply about Rosalinda,¹ Robert had read your letter and says he has some idea that he made a bargain with you about her but what it was, he does not remember and had forgotten that Rosalinda was in the land

¹ A horse of Mr. Miller's.

of the living. Therefore, he says you must do just as you please about her. All unite in love to yourself and the dear little boys. My cousin, Mr. Starr, whom you saw here, lives with us and is to make our house his home. Love to all the negros. From your affectionate mother,

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Benj. Ives Gilman's son Robert H. Gilman died in New York, September 20, 1830. His widow went back to Boston with her two little sons, Benjamin Ives and William Henderson Gilman, and later married John H. Bates of that city. Her elder son changed his name to Ives Gilman Bates and died unmarried. William H. Gilman lived in China for some years and was later connected in business with his uncle Winthrop S. Gilman in St. Louis, Mo. He married in 1851 or 1852, Helen Stettinius, daughter of Joseph Stettinius, of St. Louis. After some years they separated and in 1863 Mr. Gilman went into the U. S. Navy as paymaster. He was honorably discharged in 1866 and died leaving no children.

During the year and a half that elapsed between the previous letter and this one, Mr. and Mrs. Gilman were together part of the time and kept house in several places. They were living in New Haven at the time of the marriage of Elizabeth H., their only living daughter, to Martin Hoffman, eldest son of Martin and Beulah (Murray) Hoffman, of New York, October 28, 1830. The Martin Hoffmans apparently began housekeeping in Walker Street, two blocks below Canal Street.

Rev. Isaac Robbins to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, New York.

Alexandria 29th October 1830. Yours dated New Haven 16th Inst My beloved Sister

² Philemon R. Starr, son of Rev. Peter Starr and Sarah Robbins, sister of Rev. Chandler Robbins. Other sons mentioned are: Henry, a merchant of Cincinnati, and George Starr.

came to hand in My absence to Annapolis (the Capitol of Maryland) Where I had been to take your Sister, & where she yet remains with our Dear Jane, who was confined the Wednesday before—13th ins^t., with a fine Son. We had not seen her since Feb^y last. At the Annual Conference in Bal° last March Mr Dorsey was stationed in Annapolis, She Went with him in Feb^y from Washington—where he was last stationed to visit his family & Connections who live not far from Bal°—was with him during the Conference, & After the Conference rose, they went direct to their Appointment. I left her—doing finely, and highly delighted with having her Mama with her for two or three Weeks.

Infinite Wisdom, My Dear Sister knows best how to proportion to us our joys, or our Woes & afflictions. You have had your Seasons of Sorrow & Mourning, by bereavements of the severest kind, but I trust, "neither cast down" "nor forsaken" having made the Lord your Sun & your Shield. You have his promise that "He will give Grace" to endure affliction & lofses in this life "and Glory" in the end. In the death of your beloved Robert the admonition is repeated, that all our Creature good are only loans—& when required again, give them up cheerfully, in confidence that they will be supply with more substantial good, as earthly ties are disolved closer

We had not heard a word of the dear Childs death untill announced by yourself—truly life is but as a dream, soon passeth away; What folly to be taken up with toys, while every surrounding object tells us we are travellers to the grave.

union with Jesus may be the Substitute & so closely united to Him, that he "will never leave or forsake thee."

It has been a long long time since I received a line from either of my Brothers—Doc¹ Sewell, with whom Polly & I staid, in Washington, on our way to Annap° told me—that in his late visit to the North, he call⁴ on Chandlers Chandler who spent an evening with him at his lodgings in Boston—that they were all well. Cant you My Dear Bro¹ & Sister make us a visit this fall I see nothing to prevent it—it would truly be one of the most gratifying circumstances I can conceive of. M¹ Dorsey & Jane in-

tend paying us a visit the latter part of Nov^r or as soon as the babe & Mother are able to encounter the fatigues of a days ride in a Gig. Come & spend a few Weeks with us. Chandler will also be at home about that time, & we shall have all our Children & two Grandsons to show you. At this time my family consists only of myself, Mary, David Howell & the two servants. I shall look for my Dear Pollys return next week, if Jane continues to improve so that she can leave her with perfect safety. O do come & see us. I continue in the same Institution I was, when last [with] you. I cant say when, or if ever, I shall visit the North again.

When you write your Dear Children, present my affectionate regards to them. I will conclude my letter with another intreaty to visit Alexandria. Give my love to Eliza. I hope when she marrys she will marry in the Lord. Your affectionate Brother Isaac Robbins.

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The Martin Hoffmans kept open house for their cousins, the Battells, of Norfolk, for Mr. Hoffman's unmarried half-sisters and for all their relatives who were passing through New York. In order to make these gossipping letters of Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman more interesting, it is well to explain something about the people whom she mentions.

Martin Hoffman was the third son of Martin Hoffman and his first wife, Beulah Murray. The children of this marriage were: Murray, who married (1) in 1819, Frances A. Burrall, (2) about 1837, Mary Murray Ogden; Lindley Murray, who married in 1823, Susan Lindley Ogden; Martin, Jr., who was born July 2, 1793, married October 28, 1830, Elizabeth Hale Gilman, and died in 1857; and Anna Maria, who married in 1818, Anthony Rutgers Livingston.

Martin Hoffman, Sr., married (2) in 1802, Mary Frances Seton. Their children were: Serena, born February 28, 1803, who married November 3, 1825, Dr. Chandler Robbins Gilman, and died February 27, 1842; Mary Seton, Matilda, Maria Colden, Cecelia Seton, Harriet Seton, Cadwallader Colden, Edward Seton and James Farquhar Hoffman. These younger half-brothers and sisters married after the date of these letters. At this time Colden was a boy of eleven or twelve and lived with his half-brother, Martin, while he was going to school in New York. The Hoffman family home was now in Stratford, Conn., and later in Goshen, N. Y. It seems from these letters that Mrs. Hoffman, Sr., was a widow in 1830, although in "The Ogden Family" the date of her husband's death is given as 1838. Mrs. Hoffman died in 1861.

Martin Hoffman, Jr.'s half-sisters were about the age of the Battells, who were the children of Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman's cousin Sarah Robbins, daughter of Rev. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins. Sarah married Joseph Battell, of Norfolk, in 1805. The names of her children were: Joseph, who never married; Sarah, who married Rev. Joseph Eldridge, of Norfolk; Irene, who married Professor Larned, of New Haven; Urania, who married James Humphrey, of Brooklyn; Ellen, who married Rev. Azariah Eldridge, of Detroit; and Robbins, who married Ellen R. Mills, of Newark, N. J., and was identified with the musical history of Yale University.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Arthur Gilman, New Orleans, La.

Wednesday. Dec^r 14th N° 4. As you have expressed a wish my beloved son to have a copy of my Journals to your Paa—I will with pleasure gratify you—& begin without further ceremony.—I have Just returned my beloved husband from passing the day with Eliza. I found the Doc^r was not going down this morning—and as my Journal N° 3 was ready, I took it to Eliza's, and she sent her servant David with it to the Office before one

o clock. I have great difficulty in sending the news papers the day after we receive them, because the Doc^r cannot go down to the Office. I was mentioning this circumstance to Mr Starr, and he told me that whenever I wanted to send to the Post Office - I must send my letters or papers over to Chandler's and his Boys would take them down in the morning—for they always went to the Office — the first thing Our little girls were highly pleased with the bright present you had in reserve for them. Jane thinks, that when you come home, you will see the greatest alteration in her — and will be astonished at her improvement. I think they have improved—and have an excellent school. Next week, they are to have a publick examination. Mrs Priest has sent me an invitation—also the Doc^r, Serena, Martin & Eliza. I hope some of them will go, for she seems anxious to have her parlours filled with the friends & relatives of the children. Thursday 15th. The Doc went to the Parthenon today—and the keeper I believe, asked him for you, and when he heard you were to be absent until spring he invited the Docr to come there in your place whenever he felt disposed. Chandler wants to know if he may next March subscribe for you another year. I hope you will give him liberty. This forenoon, I went over to Mrs Starr's—and sit an hour with her and Mrs Smith. The old lady cannot forget Mr Baldwin's Prayer on thanksgiving day. She says he prayed three times for our wise and excellent President of the United States. that he might be continued a lasting blessing to the Nation, and that all the enemies of his cabinet—might be put down. And many other things, which I do not remember. I almost wish I had been present. The Docr told M^r Baldwin, since that as he himself was an anti-Jackson man—he did not like his prayer—he thought politicks ought not to be mentioned. Mr Baldwin replied that his heart was so full and he felt so thankful for the prosperity of the Nation under Jackson's administration—that he could not help it. Friday 16th. At home all day in my chamber. In the evening I asked the Docr if he thought I should add to my cold — if I went with him and Serena to M^r Baldwin's Sefsion room. He replied no not at all. I went—but was sorry afterwards, for I was quite sick all night, but did not disturb anyone except by coughing. Saturday 17th. I received a paper from you my beloved husband, enclosed in one of my old covers, and I put the observer in it and sent it to Benjamin. Serena's girl went to Eliza's on an errand and told her that I was quite sick. She sent me some new cough mixture the Doc^r made, composed of Balsom Taloo and Morphine which had cured her cough—and Sarah Battells. Also some of the best figs I ever saw—some excellent apples - some soda crackers - and two bottles of dear Arthur's Champeign wine. In the afternoon, Eliza and Martin and Sarah came up to see how I was. I was almost sorry to see them — for it is cold and windy beyond all discription. I think I never suffered so much with the cold in my life. I have not the faculty of keeping up the fire as you have—and I miss you more than I can exprefs. There is scarcely an hour but I think if we are to be separated another winter—I should wish to be shut up in a tight room lined with down as George the 3d was. Sunday 18th. Another extreme cold day. The Docr, Serena, and the little girls went to church. I did not go down to dinner, had some cold coffee and a cracker. Put the Sopha across the fire with a blanket on itwraped myself up-and laid on it all day. Eliza and Martin called to see how I was—and then went to St Thomas's to hear Mr Hawkes preach his first sermon. Tis said, that one of the vestry men at St Andrews church treeted Mr Hawkes very badly, and he sent in his resignation - which was accepted. The same afternoon they heard of it at St Thomas's, called a meeting, made out a call—sent a committee—(Murray Hoffman was one) that evening — while the members waited at the church until they returned, saying the call was accepted. This day he preaches as their Pastor. Many people blame M^r Hawkes - but before I give an opinion - I would rather hear both sides. Monday 19th. My cough is better and I am very much engaged fixing the little girls for their examination next friday. The scholars are all to be drefsed in uniform. White cambrick frocks short sleves & long white kid gloves. Elizabeth's class have book

muslin aprons (about the size of Masonic aprons) trimmed with blue satin ribbon & blue belts. Jane's class have their aprons trimmed with pink satin ribbons, and pink belts. After examination M^r Mills is to present the medal to the best scholar and Mrs Priest is to pin a knot of white satin ribbons on the shoulder of the next best. Elizabeth says the girls are all so anxious to have the medal that they are studying for their lives. She says they all hope to have it — and she does too — but she is afraid she shall tremble so that she will not be able to answer the questions, altho she knows them perfectly. Jane says she shant tremble at all because she knows her lessons perfectly. This forenoon Eliza Sarah and Maria came up and set with us an hour. Tuesday 20th. Extremely cold—I am sure I never felt such weather before. I intended to have gone to Eliza's in the middle of the day if it had been mild, but ever since the 20th of Nov^r the cold has been intense. This afternoon Martin sent me a paper from dear Arthur dated St Louis but no A W on it. I feel exceedingly anxious about you all. I want to hear from Benjamin too — if I thought it would be any gratification to him to receive my Journals I would with pleasure send them to him. Wednesday 21st. So very cold and windy that I have kept house all day and have hear nothing but that Lacawana coal is twelve dollars a Ton. I don't know what we shall do. Thursday 22d. I am very much engaged today preparing the children for their publick examination. Elizabeth has had for two days past, a very severe cold and is so unwell today, that I am afraid she will not be able to attend. She is so anxious to go, that she can't bear to hear us say she is sick. The Doc^r has been prescribing for her and I have nursed her faithfully. In the evening Mrs Priests two daughters came to see how she was and if I did not think she would be well enough to attend. They spoke very highly of her as a scholar. Friday 23d. Elizabeth much better. Just before tea Sarah Battell and Martin came up—and brought a letter from dear Winthrop to Martin dated 2d inst - and a news paper from dear Arthur dated St Louis 3d inst. He had been there

¹ Meaning "All Well."

three days, the River impassable. The last boat for the season was going to New Orleans - and he had concluded to go down without going to Alton. My heart sunk at this inteligence - knowing it would be such a sore disappointment to you all. What will poor Arthur do. I am afraid he will suffer with cold & fatigue. May a kind & merciful Providence watch over you all, and again bring us together. At seven o clock The Docr, Serena, and the little girls went to Mrs Priest's. They looked like little pictures. They all returned a little after ten. The Doc^r says they all performed extremely well. Our's both answered very promptly and perfectly. Elizabeth got the Medal—and Jane had the knot of ribbons pined on her shoulder. Doc Cox was there—and a number of Scientifick gentlemen. The Parlours were both full. It was so very cold that it was thought most prudent that I should remain at home. Martin told me this afternoon. that I must come down tomorrow—and stay with Eliza while he goes to Stratford. His mother cannot excuse him from eating his Christmas dinner with her. And as he has always had the management of her business, he must go and arrange her affairs. Saturday 24th. Eliza sent me a note this morning saying I must be ready at ten o clock with the children - when a carriage would be at the door, to bring us all to Walker St. That I must put my beding in the carriage and be prepared to pass the promised month. At 12 the carriage came and altho it rained violently, I stepped in, bag and baggage, and arrived safely at Eliza's—where I found her. Sarah and Maria in a warm parlour, pleasant and comfortable. Martin went early this morning in the Mail Stage. Sunday 25th. The streets a perfect glare of Ice. Eliza — the children and myself remained in the morning at home—while Sarah—Joseph and Maria went to the Catholick church. Joseph returned with the girls and dined with us. In the afternoon Eliza myself—and Jane went to Mr Patten's church—in Broom St. In the evening—Mr Starr and———called. The latter is on his high ropes, to think he is so soon to see his dear Matilda. As I am now so comfortably fixed—I think I will remain a month. Is Mr Creed to send the remittance

due in Nov to me? I want to pay the Doc. He does not say any thing about it but I know he wants it. Last night I had one of my sleeples nights. I began to think about you my beloved husband and the dear children and my mind was so much excited, that I could not close my eyes until nearly morning. Monday 26th. The Doc^r came down this morning, and challenged Sarah to write a page to Arthur in 9 minutes. He wrote the first page just in time - then Sarah took it - and completed the 2d in that time. Then they wrote alternately, until the paper was full. And such a letter—I believe was never written before. I had to take up the pen and make an apology to dear Arthur. While they were writing Mrs Roberts & Mrs Vasha called to see Eliza. The walking was terrible, but she said she was determined to call before Matilda arrived—least Mrs Hoffman would think she called to see her. As soon as they were gone, Mr Norton called to see Sarah. In the evening Joseph called and took the little girls and Colden to a confectioners shop and gave them candy and cakes. Tuesday 27th. A most delightful day—pleasant as May. I went with Elizabeth to Docrs to see the Jolly baby, but she was asleep. On the way we met a stage—and a gentleman leaned out of the window and bowed to me. I did not know him I thought it could not be Martin, because we were not to expect him until night. When I returned to Eliza's here was Martin—Matilda and M^r —. They were breakfasting on a fine broiled chicken, and cup of coffee. They rode all night. Matilda was so much fatigued that they concluded to invite the Doc and Serena to dine—and after tea she would be sufficiently recruited to go home with them. As Eliza was not very well—I went down into the kitchen and made a batch of ground rice puddings and some cake. The puddings—E thinks, is the best I ever made. We had Soup—rost turkey & roast Beef. with one of those hams which I baged for them last summer — and it was really one of the best hams I ever tasted — and so thought all. I hope Winthrop will not forget

¹ Dr. Gilman had two children who died in infancy. This baby was Serena Hannah, born September 29, 1830, entered the sisterhood of St. Barnabas in New York, and died January 9, 1870.

to send Martin some - Just like this. They say it was one of Winthrop's or Benjamin's — but I think it was one of Arthur's. I recd a paper this morning from you —dated 5th inst. I feel so anxious to hear of Arthur's safe arrival at New Orleans, that I have little comfort in any thing. Wednesday 28th. One of the most violent snow storms I have seen this year. Martin feels very thankful that they returned from Stratford yesterday. Notwithstanding the violence of the storm Sarah wraped up so that we hardly knew her when she came down—and went to pass the day and night by particular invitation with Mrs Egleston. We miss her much. I have began to knit Martin some socks for winter—shall probably knit him several pair. When he came home to dinner he brought me a letter from Benjamin to the Doc - a paper from you to Martin dated 29th ult one to me dated 5th inst and a very friendly affectionate letter from your cousin M^{rs} Brown. Professor Chamberlain is dead. She has carried her son through colledge—and he is studying Theology. Thursday 29th. I walked up to the Docrs and sit an hour with the baby—who is extremely interesting. Gave the Doc^r five dollars to pay for 2 volumes of the Encyclopedia Americanus. Sarah is still absent—and we miss her exceedingly. Friday 30th Extreme cold snow storm. Eliza and I-intended to have gone to Mr Baldwin's—to hear his preparitory sermon for the sacrament. Matilda and — passed the day here—and after tea—I went into Eliza's chamber, where a good fire is commonly kept—and I passed the evening alone, reading I trust to edification. Saturday 31st. Eliza and I, called on Mrs Lin Hoffman and on my way home bought some new year presents for the children. They expect a present from Uncle Arthur—they say he promised a book I think [if] they got the medal when they were examined. It is very sickly here—scarlet fever - and Influenza. Two young merchants of great respectability died last week. Poor brother Cox, has lost four children within four weeks. Sunday January 1st 1832. I wish you all my dear husband and sons—a happy new year. May you all be prospered—and returned

¹ See letter of May 30, 1820.

home in safety. I went to Mr Baldwin's church. Martin and Eliza went in the morning & returned home. I dined at the Doc^{rs}—and Just as I was seated in the pew—in came Martin and Eliza. After church we all came home to Walker St. No person called in the evening but Joseph—and we all sung sacred musick—and wished for Paa and Arthur to sing with us. Monday 2d As new year came on Sunday — the usual visiting was today. We had a fire in both Parlours—the table was arranged with caks of various kinds — with wines and cordial. At eleven the gentlemen began their visits. Eliza — Sarah — Maria Harriott—and the little girls were all drefsed and took their seats in the front parlour. I put on a clean cap and stationed myself in Eliza's chamber before a good fire. I was sent for — to see Mr Starr — and Joseph Battell. Just before three, I was summoned again to see your old friend Mr Corfs—who made many enquiries for you, and the sons. Maria counted 26—Serena and Matilda had 15. We dined at 4 o clk. Before we left the table. Matilda — Harriot and M^r —— came and after tea. Joseph Battell. Eliza observed to me that no one tasted the cordial—but L & M and it was so pleasant that the dose was repeated two or three times. mer—I think—lacks the one thing needful. Tuesday 3^d I rec^d a letter from dear Arthur dated at Alton — giving an acct of his passage in the Globe. I was more pleased than I can express—to think that he was with you. I have been mourning ever since I recd his news paper from St Louis saying he should go to N O next day - without seeing you. I recd also, a paper from you, saying it was cold as Green Land. Is it possible it is so cold at Alton. I am afraid you will take cold and be sick. Do be very careful not to wet your feet. The Doc^r and Serena were much pleased to have Arthur remember the baby. After tea—old M^r Battell came in and Joseph. Mr Battell took up the paper, giving an acct of the meeting at Alton—was much pleased—& handed it to Joe who wondered if the Secretary drew up the Resolutions, but no one knew. In came Starr saying he had a letter from Winthrop—they were all well—in good spirits— & business flourishing. Thursday 5th We are all well

and send much love. Thus far I wrote dear Arthur—and sent the Journal this day to your Paa. I have began N° 5—and will when the sheet is full—copy it for you. Do write soon—we have heard by a letter Mr Starr recd last ever from you that you had arrived at St Louis—on your way to New Orleans. Take good care of your health & come home soon to your

affectionate Mother.

I have not time dear Arthur to read Maas letter, but presume she has told you all the domestic news, therefore shall only say, we are all well & hearty, think, & talk of you every day—last eve^g we had a bottle of your wine,

which I wish to my heart you had.

Norton is very attentive to Sarah—sh^d not be much surprised sh^d you find them comfortably fixed in Broadway on y^r return. Do not grieve too much. As for Maria & Joe, I do not know what to think of them, but presume they understand each other—Sarah teazes her without mercy about him. Emily Erving is spending the winter in town—how much you have lost. M^r Scott has presented his letter of introduction & dines with us tomorrow accompanied by M^r Norton. D^r will probably dine with us—I wish you could join us. Farewell—let us hear often.

Am not I a punctual correspondent dear Arthur? This is the second letter I have written you within a few days, and if you do not answer it I shall be tempted to choke myself. I have nothing very interesting to communicate except last evening your Mother, Eliza, and myself, very considerately left the front parlor to Joe & Maria Hoffman!!!! I do not know the result!*

M^r Frd Norton has come out in a new wig and I find it quite irresistable! dont pray mention this. Mifs Clara Troter I have not seen as yet. I suspect she keeps herself quite secluded in your absence. I regret extremely that you forgot your engagement to meet me here in the Autumn. I took as it was meant! (by the way I drink to your health every day and believe always Your aff^t

Cousin S.

* It is no such thing, Sarah to the contrary notwithstanding.

Maria.

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This is the joint letter Mrs. GILMAN wrote about in her last. The first page is from Dr. Gilman, the next from Sarah Battell, with a postscript, and then the Doctor and Miss Battell write turn and turn about, finishing with bits from Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. GILMAN.

Dr. Chandler R. Gilman and Sarah Battell to Arthur Gilman, New Orleans, La.

You sweetest of all flesh—we were entirely astonish^d to hear that you did not intend going to Alton, I should have thought that a man of your Energy would have built a bridge rather than not go acrofs the River. Sarah Battell is here as mad as the D---l, on the whole I am rather glad you did not make your advances to her. She is now ballancing between a gay darling beau— a Unitarian by the way — and a Godly minister of the true Old Calvenistic School Who has ten children: Joe is here every day and Maria is here all the time of course things may be differently a Year hence from what they are now. Martin has gone to Stratford for Matilda, he has (Contrary to all Expectation and reasonable Calculation) very fine weather, which remind one of the Mohomedan Doctrine that foolish People are under the Especial protection of Providence. the Baby improves astonishingly. She says a great many words What is rather singular She learn to say Arthur and Hatchy on the same day. Hatchy by the way looks Very well. She is by far the prettiest of the Hoffman family and in due time, I think it might be Well for you to consider the Subject. Serena who knows not of my Writing often Thinks of you and Enquires for you. take Good Care of your health. Yrs C. R. Gilman

I have but 10 minutes to write you and you cannot of

course expect a very connected epistle—I merely write to assure you of my remembrance and that I still remember I am engaged to live at the West with a certain cousin of mine. I dont like over much what Dr has said about Hatev, but will merely say she is not so very pretty.

¹ Harriet Hoffman.

The girls I have heard from this morning—they are well but confined to house in consequence of the Thermometer being below Zero—Don't pray dear Arthur kill yourself in consequence of what D has written you about Fred Norton—he has a new wig and looks well, but not like a certain person in Chamber Street who wore a light scratch—do you remember? Starr is very attentive and squints and blinks as formerly—I have enjoyed myself inexpressibly but was sadly disappointed in not seeing you, as I came as I promised in Autumn. Do pray write us girls and you will give much happiness to your

Very aff^t S. Battell

Dear Arthur I am really ashamed of this letter—but I did not wish to be outdone by Doct who thought I could not write as quick as himself—but promise I will take more time when next I write.

Its all fudge about Hatch not being pretty She is by far the prettiest of my relations let folks say what they will.

By the bye Arthur it is D^{rs} wife who is a cousin of mine, so you know I am not included in the above. I fear me much that you wont make out this 9 minute letter—if you do you will evince great skill in reading, and I shall be encouraged to again write. D^r says I'm mad as the D——I now this same gentleman is a great favorite of Dr therefore he meant it as a compliment—the fact is they (the Lady & Gentleman) are both persons in whom I feel great interest and I look forward to their union with very sincere & ardent Satisfaction. I must go. D^r is certainly selfish for he intends to have me yoke myself with this parson and then you know he will take the family practice——

If you ask any Experienced Physician he will tell you that Parsons are the worst possible patients. You never can charge anything and they keep you always busy. N

B—M^{rs} D^r Spring has 16 children.

You take the idea—that is she has the same number of John Rogers including the youngest one which if you remember your catechism you will remember more than Doct. Sarah knows all about the Catechism—for She begins to find out that it is advisable for Ladies to be

prepared with a ready answer to any questions. Dont you ask any.

Sarah means Parson I meant D—l.

I take up the pen dear A. just to remark upon the Drs impudence in expressing himself as he has done about my Husband - tis true he has gone to Stratford & businefs called him there—he will bring Mat down to the City - but I shd like to know how many ages might elapse before his censurers would sacrifice so much personal comfort for the benefit & gratification of friends. We were more than sorry that you were not able to see Paa & Wintrp. They will be greatly disappointed - hope soon to hear of y' arrival at N. O. Maa & children are with me - came the day Martin left & I intend to keep them a month—you know they promised me the visit before Paa left us. We have had a Charming visit from Cousin Sarah—only regret you are not here. Maria remains with me until March. We have had several letters from Mary G.1 She is quite unhappy in Boston & pines constantly for home as she calls N. Yk. her Brother sails for West Indies 1st of Feby—he is very tyrannical & makes M acct for every cent she spends. Maa wishes to add a line. Yr attached Sister

When will my poor children learn wisdom and sobriety. I really want to erase half of the first page of this letter. O that they would set a watch over their lips. I reed a paper from you dear Arthur dated 3d inst., saying the river was impassable & you had concluded to go to New Orleans. I hope this step is for the best. But I never felt more hurt & disappointed. Your Paa is very lonesome and in all his letters has mentioned his desire to see you—and the pleasure he expected on seeing you. Pray write as often as you can & send papers when you cant write. I have sent three Nos of Journals—and this week shall send another. Tell me about dear Benja and about your health. Shall you go to Alton—and when Do you wish the 4th no of my Journal? I am sorry you did not see the others as they are connected. Heaven

blefs you my beloved son prays your Mother.

¹ Mrs. Robert H. Gilman.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Arthur Gilman, New Orleans, La.

As you request a copy of my Journal to your Paa, my dear Arthur-I will now sit down and copy it. I cannot find out whether you have seen those I have sent him-or not. If you have not-I must tell you first that Martin came to the Docrs before Christmas and requested that I would come and make the promised visit of a month then and bring the little girls. He was going to Stratford to eat his christmas dinner as usual, and he wanted I should be with Eliza and Maria—who was to pass the winter at his house — while he was gone. He went the day before Christmas — and I came to Walker St with the children on that day. Now I will begin as far back as Jan 5th Journal No 5-hoping you have perused the others at Alton. "I have Just sent my Journal N° 4 at the Office my beloved husband, and most sincerely hope it will have a quicker passage than the last. I was perfectly astonished to hear that you had received but one since your arrival at Alton-which Arthur afsured me was the fact in his letter of the 9th Ult. Since you left us - I have sent you every week two Spectators, and often an Advertiser & Journal of Commerce. can account for your not receiving them in no other way than this. The winter thus far has been so uncommonly severe—and the roads and creeks often impassable that they have left the letters, and taken the papers. I am grieved for it—for I am afraid you will think I neglect writing to you — when it is my greatest amusement and comfort. I long to receive a letter from you - giving every particular that I want to hear. I think it is time for you to write - and I shall really expect a letter very soon. I believe I mentioned at the close of my last that M' Battell was here. Joseph and he passed the evening with us yesterday and I was not a little gratified to see them one after the other read the paper you sent giving an account of the meeting at Alton. Joseph asked if Winthrop drew up the resolutions—but no one was able to answer. They are both invited to dine with us this 502

day. In giving an account in my last of the visitors on new-years day — I forgot to mention cousin Moses Ives. He came in a sleigh with a number of gentlemen who waited for him at the door — and as I was up in my chamber he could not wait to see me. He was so kind as to call the next day to see me. He sit an hour and was very pleasant. Cousin Hope is much better but not intirely well. He has been at Washington six weeks - and now on his way home. Friday 6th. Mr Battell and Joseph came yesterday and dined with us-on boiled turkey oyster sauce—another of those excellent Hams of Arthur's - roast ducks - minced pies - Marlborough puddings &c-they sit until near dark then went to take tea and pass the evening with a Mrs Croach who's husband is a business acquaintance of Mr Battell's. The party was made for Sarah — (who has been at Eliza's dear Arthur, nearly three weeks) but it rained—and she was glad of an excuse to stay at home. About an hour after they were gone - Joseph rode up in a sleigh - with express orders not to return without her. She reluctantly went. Maria and I-sit up for her until after eleven-and then concluded they had persuaded her to remain all night. - and we went to bed. Just as the clock struck twelve - she came home. It rained all that day - and I gave the little girls India rubbers & an umbrella, and sent them to school. Sarah and Maria concluded as it was so unpleasant—no one would call—and they would not drefs—but devote the day to writing. Norton with Sarah constantly—but we cannot find out whether she is attached to him or not. But to day it seemed suspicious. She was very much in a dishabille - and he came into the parlour so still—and unexpectedly—that she screamed—and blushed—and was evidently so much agitated - that she could not recover herself until he was gone. Saturday 7th. I went this morning to see Serena's baby. She was very sick last night—and the Docr was so very much frightened—that he could do nothing for her - and sent in the middle of the night for Doc Hoit. I presume her illness was in consequence of teething. When I returned—I found Mrs Murray Hoffman. She was uncommonly agreeable - and Sarah was charmed

with her conversation. Mr Battell-Joseph-and Mr Starr passed the evening with us. Mr Starr engaged Sarah to go with him tomorrow—to Murray St church. Sunday 8th. I went early to the Docre to see the baby she was better—and I went with them to church. Eliza and Martin went to hear Mr Hawkes who is now settled at St Thomas's. It was very cold—and while we were in church—it rained—and when we came out—it was a perfect glare of Ice. So that we could not walk without being supported. I went into the Docre — thinking it would be better towards night. But very soon—to my great Joy — Martin and Eliza came in and sent for a hack, and we soon found ourselves in Walker St. Matilda who has been at Serena's since christmas — went to hear M^r Eastburn. Canal St—had to come here and pass the remainder of the day—and night. I sleep in your chamber - dear Arthur - and Maria & Matilda in the upper story. After tea — came—and passed the evening. As there is a constant fire in Eliza's chamber, Martin and I went up there, and read—all the evening. Eliza came up—and said — and Sarah were disputing on Dueling And were both very high and quite excited. She wanted Martin to go down and on Matilda's account—try to turn the conversation. For she was afraid her feelings would be hurt. Mr — insisted that dueling was a necessary evil. Sarah was so much astonished that she took him up—and supported the argument extremely well. Mr — told her that her brother Joseph might be in such a situation tomorrow as to fight a duel before dark. And he believed he would. He made some remarks on the good state of Connecticut and their religion &c with so much contempt — that Sarah said afterwards — that she could hardly keep her temper. Martin said if he went down—he should be opposed to M^r——and probably say something that would hurt Matilda's feelings more than if he remained where he was. Mat remained all night—and slept with Sarah and Maria. Monday 9th. I went up to the Docrs to see how the baby was—and found her much better. Returned to dinner—and found the two Miss Seton's—and Miss Henry - who all dined here. After dinner Martin brought

out some of Arthur's wine as he calls it-Scuppernon for Sarah to taste. She thinks it the best wine she ever tasted. Mifs Henry and the Seaton's went home before tea. As we had a fire in both parlours—after they were gone I took posselsion of the front Parlour - and thought I would write by myself all the evening. But had not been their many minutes before I was interrupted. Mr Battell and Joseph came—and very soon Mr Starr—and as Mr—was in the back parlour Sarah brought me three relatives to pass the evening with me. Of course all my plans were interrupted. Mr Starr told me he had come on purpose to tell me he had to day received a letter from Arthur - dated at St Louis, on his way to New Orleans via Kaskaskies. That he and Winthrop left you 20th — quite well. He said Arthur appeared to write in fine spirits—and said that Alton had improved so much that he should not have known the place. I am much pleased to hear from you so recently and hope to receive a letter very soon. Tuesday 10th. Sarah dines with Mrs Ludlow — the clergymen's wife. Mr Norton called to wait on her there. She often says she will never marry him - even if he should turn Presbyterian-because she could not love him. And yet he calls to see her almost every day—and she certainly does all in her power to encourage him. After dinner I went to Mr Patten's church—where is a protracted meeting. Mr Ludlow preached a very solemn sermon to a very crowded house. We were to meet Sarah thereand come home together. But she was not there. Mrs Ludlow being very unwell, she remained with her - and went there in the evening. Wednesday 11th. Mr Dutton called this forenoon to accompany Sarah in visiting some of her acquaintances - as she expects to leave town tomorrow with her father. Just after she was gone - in come Kate Lawrence - and told Eliza, she had been coming in to make her a sociable visit, a long time - and if she was not engaged - she would stay. Of course - she remained, much to my regret. Sarah soon came home was introduced - and made herself very agreeable. They played duets together - and Kate seemed much pleased with her. At three o clock Mr Scott - Mr Linton - and

the Doc^r all came by particular invitation to dine. Sarah really exceeded herself. She kept the company at the table in a constant roar. Mr Scott claped his hands together—threw himself back in his chair—and laughed immoderately. Mr Linton looked in perfect astonishment and delight. The Jokes were all about Arthur and Sarah. If you ever see those gentlemen — you will hear all about Thursday 12th. We breakfasted very early this morning — And Sarah and Martin got into a hack — and went on board a steam boat—where Mr Battell and Joseph soon made their appearance. He says M^r Battell told him that he went into the American Hotel vesterday where Mr Scott and Mr Linton put up - and heard them tell a man of their acquaintance that they had Just come from Mr Martin Hoffman's where they had dined. And they saw there one of the drollest girls without exception that they ever saw in their lives. She really did beat all the girls they ever saw. Her name was Sarah Battell. She was a confounded smart girl too. Mr Battell said he was afraid to hear any more—and he walked out. He then asked Martin if Sarah was not too high. He was afraid she was. Martin assured him she was not - and he did not know how we should have done without her for she was the life of the company. We miss her exceedingly. She is very witty—and a sensible girl. But I think she is too fond of company—too carelefs—too. fond of admiration—and I am afraid will not make a good wife. It is pleasant to pass a few days with a person of this discription—but after that it becomes rather Friday 13th. Jane came home from school vesterday with a high fever, face bloated — and I thought she was going to have the scarlet fever. There was no abatement of fever all night. In the morning her face was covered with the measles. In the evening—Joseph Battell called—and eat an oyster supper with us. Before his father arrived — Joseph had made arrangements to go into the Grocer business with Mr Lawrence - whose father lives below M^r Baldwins church. But when M^r B arrived, he found by enquiry that the young man had accepted largely for some person of doubtful standing and he made an excuse for dissolving the connection — because Mr L sold ardent spirits—and Joseph was a temperance man. Before Mr B left this city he settled Joseph in the Grocer business—with Mr Sacket—of the Firm of Mead Sacket and Mead. He made great enquiry's of Mr Starr—Arthur Tappan—and many other Merchants — before he made up his mind. Joseph seems much pleased that he is in business here and not at Norfolk. Saturday 14th. Jane is doing as well as can be expected. I walked up with Elizabeth to see the baby she begins to look like herself. Mr — Mat's beau — is very apt to speak before he reflects. The evening before Sarah left us—he was here with Mat—Sarah and Maria had on new clean checked aprons. He seemed quite shocked—and beged they would take off those aprons they were only fit for cooks and chamber maids. I was Kniting—and Matilda said she wished she could Knit. Why said he, do you wish to Knit—it will do well enough for old women to Knit-but it shows such a vacancy of thought that I cant bear it. The last of the sentence was spoken in rather an undertone - but everyone in the parlour heard it. I am sorry to find that he is exceedingly disliked by every member of her family. But they are now determined to make the best of it—because she is devotedly attached to him. Sunday 15th. Jane is so well—that I went with Eliza and Martin to Mr Baldwin's church in the morning, and as he was not to preach in the afternoon—I went to hear Doc Spring but was disappointed. M^r Carroll of Brooklin preached. Doc^r Spring has lost another child. He went to church in the morning—but was so affected—he had to sit down. We passed the evening to ourselves. Monday 16th. I sent you this morning Saturday's advertiser — with price currant—and Benjⁿ the Observer. Did you read a piece of poetry in it—headed the Old Man. I think it beautiful. You are not fond of Poetry - and I am afraid you did not read it. Tuesday 17th. Eliza and Maria went to hear Colden examined. In the evening Mr Starr

¹ Dr. Gardiner Spring, born in 1785 and died in 1873. He was still the pastor of the Brick Church, by that time removed to Fifth Avenue and Thirty-seventh Street, when Winthrop S. Gilman became one of its Elders and Trustees.

called, and read us an excellent letter he received to day from his brother Henry at Cincinnati. Full of Affection and good feelings. He seemed rather disponding. Said he felt alone in the world. He had the highest opinion of domestick happiness—and the older he grew—the more he was convinced that it was not good for man to be alone. For the last twelve months, he had been in persuit of a wife — but could not find one suitable for him. Wednesday 18th. A beautiful spring like day - Maria out -Eliza and I alone. The Doc^r came in about lunch time eat some bread & butter and honey-comb. The best I have seen for many years. He and Eliza had a long dish of discourse about —. He dislikes him exceedingly, but is not so violent in his prejudices as usual. Thursday 19th. Matilda came, this morning and dined with us. Martin came home at the usual hour, and brought a newspaper from you my dear. I thank you for it—but it is time I had a letter. I want you to feel a strong inclination to write me a letter. I can truly say—my greatest pleasure is writing to my beloved husband. I shall probably return to the Docrs—next week. It is very pleasant here, with our only daughter - and since I have made this my home. I have been as contented as I can be—seperated from you. When I left the Docrs—I was in his debt, he said thirty seven dollars—but it is not in my power to pay him until Mr Creed remits me something. Friday 20th. Matilda came down to pass the day - soon Mr - came. Eliza and I went up to Serena's and Maria went out-so that they had a cozy time. After tea Mat and Mr—went to the Theatre. Mr Scott and Mr Linton will leave the city dear Arthur next Saturday—as they will be in N O soon—some of us will write by them. I have send copy of this sheet to your Paa—and began another. Let me know when you will leave New Orleans. On your arrival there - you will find two letters in the Post Office - one directed to the care of Mefs^{rs} Newkirk & Olden—and the first to New Orleans only. Hope you will receive them both. 24th. This I will send by mail to day - for Mr Starr says since the new arrangements he receives his letters in fourteen days. Do write as often as you can my dear son - take good care of your health—and return as soon as you can to your affectionate mother. Eliza sends love & will write by Mr Scott. as no one has written a line to poor Ben— I have copyd this Journal and sent him—Saturday last. I see by the papers, an extract of a letter from some one in New Orleans that a vefsel had arrived from Smyrna—with that horrible disease cholera If this is true my dear Arthur—do leave all business and go up the river. We are not our own keeper's but it is our duty to take every mean in our power—to preserve life. Give yourself my son to that merciful being—in whose hands your life is—and whose are all your ways. From your Anxious Mother.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Arthur Gilman, New Orleans, La.

Friday January 20th (1832) No 6. This morning my beloved husband, I sent you Journal No 5 - and now I will begin the 6th. After breakfast Matilda Hoffman came down-and passed the day with us. About 11 o clock --- came in -- and Eliza and I went up to Serena's and Maria went out. So they had a fine opportunity for private conversation. We remained at the Docrs until near dinner time and then returned to Walker Stand found Matilda alone. After tea she and Maria went down to Mrs Roberts — much to Maria's anoyance and they all went to the Theatre. I sit up alone until they came home, half past twelve - gladly embracing the opportunity to copy My Journal for dear Benjamin and Arthur. Saturday 21st Matilda passed the morning with us—and then went to Mrs Roberts to dine and pals the day. She made an agreement to pass every Saturday at her house. Eliza walked out - and while she was out Mrs Brooks called. Harriot Hoffman dined here and went home to Lindley's before tea. Martin received a letter from his mother—saying that Mrs Poor (sister to Mrs Doudell) was dead. Ten days after her confinement she ate thirty buckwheat cakes. Martin brought me a paper from you - which rejoiced me exceedingly. But

I wish it had been a letter. He presented me also, a set of Perryan Pens /6/—Powder for the Ink—with directions how to use it. Since you left me-I have wanted nothing so much as a pen. And nothing could be more acceptable. Sunday 22d. Eliza and Martin went to St Thomas's and I went all day to Mr Baldwin's. Dined at the Doc^{rs} with Doc^r Hoit and Matilda. After tea — Joseph Battell called and sit an hour. Then went to hear M^r Hawkes. He is very much celebrated and his church since he was settled at St Thomas's is full to overflowing. Monday 23d. A fine pleasant day—and I let Jane go to school, and Kept Elizabeth at home. She is quite unwell-with a violent cough-and every symptom of measles. At calling time we were siting in the parlour when two Ladies came bowing in—elegantly drefsed and made a thousand apologies to Eliza because they had not called before — but neither Eliza nor Maria knew who they were—nor could they have any Idea. At last—I presume they observed some confusion—and they introduced each other. Miss Wadington - and a Miss Ogdon, whom Maria never saw before. While they were siting very stiffly - in came two more - perfect strangers to the whole company. But by conversing a while Eliza found out who they were. It was really painful to see them, and I have no doubt they were all relieved when the visit was over. Tuesday 24th. Elizabeth was so unwell yesterday that when I left my bed this morning I did not wake her. About ten o clock I went up she said she felt better and would get up. I assisted in dressing her and she went down into the parlour and began to sip some tea—then said Grandmaa I must lay down. And before we could take her to the Sofa she fainted. We were very much alarmed and immediately sent for the Docr who ordered a fire in my chamber — which was Arthur's — and said I must apply farlicks to her feet—give an emetick—Calomel—&c. She was very sick all day and all night. Wed-

¹ Evidently Arthur cut quills for his mother and the gift was a box of steel pens, which were still a novelty. Could the "Perryan" pen be that invented by James Perry in 1830? He is called "the father of the steel pen" in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

nesday 25th. Elizabeth in bed all day. At noon—when the Doc^r came and examined her closely—we could see the measles under the skin like the finest grater. Not like Jane's, who had fine large blotches all over her. In the evening Mr Starr called and told us his brother George had arrived to try again Electricity. He is not so well and I am afraid he will not live long. Maria has at last received a letter from Sarah Battell. She tells her that Urania has received a letter from her friend Mils Foot of Cincinnati. And it is such a good Joke she must tell her. That Mr Henry Starr was engaged to be married to Mrs Kilgore of that city. He went to Columbus to attend the court and before he came back Mr DeWitt merchant who is a widower - steped in and cut out poor Henry and before he returned from court Mrs Kilgore engaged herself to M^r De Witt. When M^r Starr returned he was extremely mortified—disappointed and afflicted. For he was very much attached to her. They boarded at the same house — and at the dinner table he talked at her says Mifs Foot—so that she fainted away. It made a great noise nothing else was talked of—for some time. After a few days they were married and were dashing away at a great rate—giving Parties and Balls &c—I think Henry may consider it a very fortunate escape for him. I am sure that a woman who could be so void of principle as to engage herself in so short a time, to two men—would never make him happy. I presume this affair had Just happened when Henry wrote that disponding letter to Philemon. Thursday 26th. This morning Elizabeth was covered with measles and is still kept in bed. Colden came home this forenoon from school with violent pain in his head and a high fever. The Doc^r was sent for and said a cot must be put in my chamber as he wished me to take care of him—and he must go to bed—take an emetick—and powders every two hours through the night—and he would see him in the morn-

¹ This young boy, Cadwallader Colden Hoffman, of whom Mrs. GILMAN wrote so frequently, became a missionary to Africa under the Episcopal Church. In a notice of his work there the fact is mentioned that it was through the influence of Mrs. Martin Hoffman and Mrs. Benj. IVES GILMAN that Colden Hoffman went to the Foreign Field.

ing. I have the sole care of them both and my hands are

completely full.

Friday 27th. Elizabeth better and poor Colden, very sick. The Doc says he has a remiting fever. Matilda called and Maria and she went shoping for articles preparitory to her marriage. They came here and dined and after tea M^r—— came and passed the evening. I did not go down for Colden requires my whole time and attention. I burn a lamp and was up with him three or four times last night. Saturday 28th. Colden very sick and Elizabeth better. She sit up in an easy chair — great part of the day. Matilda called this forenoon with Mr —to see how her brother was—then went with him to pass the day at his Mother's. Mr Starr and the Doc^r dined here by invitation last week—on Salt fish. After dinner Maria went to Mrs Ogden's and passed the remainder of the day and evening. Was up with Colden twice last night. Sunday 29th. Colden a little better but not able to sit up a moment. Elizabeth has so far recovered, that I think if the weather will permit I will let her go down in the parlour tomorrow. This has been a very unpleasant day to me—for Eliza had last night one of her ill turns of violent sick head ach. She at last insisted that her throat was so much inflamed & swelled inside (when there was not the least appearance of it) that if she went to bed she should suffocate. I told her that I had been so before she was born — which seemed to relieve her — and after one o clock I bathed her neck with spts of hartshorn—made her go to bed—then went myself. After that I was up once with Colden. The Doc^r called this forenoon and told me not to let him sit up a moment today — nor take any nourishment but toaste and water. Martin brought his Brother Murray home with him from church, to eat minced fish. No one went to church but Maria and Martin. Eliza was well enough to take her seat at the dinner table, but could eat nothing. Jane crying almost all day with the tooth ach. For myself—I desire to be thankful for a good constitution. Monday 30th. Elizabeth so well as to be able to go down into the parlour. The Doc^r called and gave me more medicine for Colden and said he must not get out of his bed

today. Martin came home and sent up for me to come down. As soon as I was seated he gave me a newspaper from you my beloved husband which I opened with great avidity and saw A. W. Martin said, I believe there is another. I took it and it was dated 9th inst. Then he said Why seems to me there's another yet, and gave me a paper from our dear Arthur dated Dec^r 31st. On the margin was written St Genevieve - start tomorrow for New Madrid in a sleigh—disappointed in a conveyance at Kafkaskia - A W. After all these - Martin took from his hat a letter. I could hardly contain my feelings. Then he said—why here's a paper looks like Arthurs writing, and gave me another paper from him, dated Randolph Jan 8th — A W. Wrecked yesterday in S.B Oregon—go on today in Argus—A G. A.P.W. I feel very thankful for the letter, and all the papers. But my anxiety to hear how he was wrecked — where he is — and how he is is great, in the extreme. May a merciful God protect him and spare us to meet again. I am grieved my dear that you should write in such low spirits. When you were here your spirits were generally good. After breakfast you could walk down to the reading-room stop on the way at your dear daughter's and refresh yourself—return—and converse pleasantly with the Doc' —take a game of chefs — and sleep soundly. Now you are at Alton your fare—though you do not say it— I know is not fit for a Pig. Your business I fear is vexatious and I doubt not you have sleeples nights. I feel extremely anxious about you and I do most sincerely wish you were again in New York. You mention my not taking any notice of what you said in respect to our future residence. Almost the last words you said when we parted were that you should if possible return here in April. And I concluded that what you said in your letter from Alton was merely to see what I would say on the subject. But as you have again aluded to it I will promptly reply—that if it is your choice and it be necessary to pals the few remaining days we have at Alton I will part with our only daughter, and the Doc -never to meet again in this world and follow my beloved husband. But let me claim your promise—to return this spring—pass

the summer—and go out together in the fall. I see our dear Winthrop's name in the papers at the meetings in Alton—I hope it will not be the means—as is sometimes the case — of making him conceited or opinionated. You must recollect my dear son that you are yet very young and have much to learn. Your best way is to do nothing without your Paa's advice. Remember my darling son that he has age and experience. And if you ever neglect asking his advice in all your ways you will not prosper as blefsing will not follow you. I commend you to that Being—who alone can keep you in all your ways—and humbly trust that you will be made the instrument in his hands of doing much good while you are in that western world. How could you my dear so far mistake me as to suppose I went to a Unitarian church. Never—O never while I live — shall I so far forget myself and my church as to enter a church that denies the Divinity of my own blefsed Saviour. No my beloved husband - you would not respect me if I did. I thought you knew that the Presbyterians had purchased the Universalist church in Prince St. That was the church I went to and heard such an excellent sermon. Tuesday 31st. Matilda and M^r— called this morning to see how Colden was. He is able to sit up a little—is very fractious, and wants every thing. Maria passed the day at Lindley's. Mr Starr and Charles Hoffman passed the evening here—but I was with Colden and did not know Mr Starr was here until the bell rang for Prayers. Wednesday Feb, 1st. Matilda came this morning and took Maria to pass the day at the Doc^{rs}. He called at 12 to make his last visit to Colden. He sat up all day and now I shall leave the charge of him to Eliza. She had Just finished a letter to you and the Doc^r added a P.S. About 5 o clk Matilda came home with Maria — who was so sick, she could hardly reach Walker St. Matilda did not stay 5 minutes. She was engaged she said to take tea with Mrs Roberts. I combed and bathed her head - made her some catnip tea - and put her to bed, with a lamp burning. I hope and trust she is not going to have a fever. Thursday 2d. Martin brought

¹ Charles Fenno Hoffman, a cousin of Martin Hoffman. He was born in 1806, was a popular poet and writer.

a paper from you my beloved husband—with A W which is always a comfort to me. Maria recd a letter from Sarah Battell with some lace for Maria—some small pieces of ribbbon to make pin cushions for Elizabeth— Nathan Dickerman for Jane—which she had before and a highly gilt red Morocco pocket Bible in shape of a pocket book for Colden. Some ladies called, but I did not see them. Friday 3^d. Martin came home and brought me a letter from my darling son Arthur — giving an account of his ship wreck and voyage to New Orleans. His situation in the flat boat must have been very alarming. It appears to me he has always been unfortunate in that country. Two or three times he has come very near losing his life — and as often, has a Kind Providence interposed for him. I cannot feel that it is his duty to settle there. And I wish if it be the will of heaven, that he and his brothers may settle in this city.1 How pleasant it would be if our dear children could always live together. Why not our children—with their superior talents for business-settle here as well as Joseph Battell and a thousand others. They could each I should think command enough to begin - and with a common blefsing they would succeed. Saturday 4th. Eliza remembered that this was the anniversary of our marriage—and she and Martin insisted that they would have Matilda—the Docr and Serena to dine with us in commemmoration of that happy event. But as you were absent I insisted that it should not be so. And that if they wished to keep the day - they could not do it more agreeably to my feelings, than to keep silence and dine on baked pork and beans. Martin came home and brought me the Illinois Advocate dated Jany 13th AW. in an old wrapper of mine which I sent Benjⁿ inclosing an Observer. You will perhaps wonder that I am still at Eliza's. But when the month had expired—the children were taken with the Measles. And this is the day [the end of the page is missing. On the following page appears this paragraph:]

¹ Mrs. Trollope writes "Were all America like this fair city, (New York) and all, no, only a small proportion of its population like the friends we left there, I should say that the land was the fairest in the world." Dom. Man. of the Amer., ii, 293.

You will see by the within my dear Arthur that I have been so happy as to receive your letter from N O of 19th Ult—and how Much I was relieved by its contents. I hope that while you are there—you will take particular care of yourself - not go out evenings on no account. Also be attentive to your diet-let your food be plain meets & vegetables — and not highly seasoned. I hope you will be able to procure good lodgings. Above all things remember your dependence is not on yourself but on him who alone is able to keep and preserve your life. You say "I presume you will have recd a 2d check from Mr Creed e'er this. I have not recd a cent from him since you left me and concluded you had cause to make use of it yourself. Would it do for you to write him on the subject? or will he have sent it before a letter could reach him. I want it at present only for our board. M' Miller mentions the children's returning—thinks Elizabeth has had education enough. Says cotton is so low — that it is not in his power to send but 200\$ Pr year for both. Your Paa's letter from Alton is filled with every thing that is "blue" Your letter arrived in 14 days from the date. Do write as often as you can and tell me all about your businefs. Mr Scott who sailed in the Natchez was so polite as to go without calling after he dined with us-altho I had letters from the children to you all done up. All send love.

From your Affectionate Mother H. G.

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Hon. Lewis Cass, Secretary of War, to Benj. Ives Gilman, Alton, Ill.

Department of War February 9 1832.

Sir.

I have received your letter of the 16th ulto, and so far as this Department may be called on to act upon the subject of the proper place for the United States road to crofs the Mississippi, your Statements and Suggestions shall receive all that consideration, to which I am sure they are justly entitled. You present the Subject in a

Strong light, and it is one, which will no doubt be maturely considered, before any final decision is made.

I have the honor to be Very respectfully Your Obed Servant Lew Cafs (over)

My dear Sir,

Allow me to recall myself to your recollection, and to that of your family, and to express the interest, I feel in what concerns you and them. The incidents of life scatter us strangely in all directions, but "my own friends and my fathers friends" are not forgotten.

Truly yours

Lew Cafs.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Arthur Gilman, New Orleans, La.

Friday February 10th No 7.2 I sent you this morning my beloved husband Journal Nº 6 and a copy to our dear Arthur. I am afraid that my Journals will not be so interesting now as when I was at Eliza's, For here I see no one—nor do I hear any thing to tell you that will be amusing. The little girls have received a letter from their father and I will transcribe what he says relating to the children. "It appears to me you have now got your schooling — and that it is time you should attend to something else. In October I engaged Mr Knap—an old gentleman from Zanesville Ohio until January — for the education of my little boys—for fifty dollars. I have now undertaken the expense of the education of your two brothers and will not be able to bear so much expense I have to board the master in the bargain. I am fearful that your city life and education will give you a distaste to our plain plantation affairs—and that you will not be happy here—and that I will not be able to support you at so much expense where you are—for I cannot send more than two hundred dollars for the ensuing years expenses. The storm has lefsoned my crop very much

¹ See note on letter of April 25, 1795.

² A note by Winthrop S. Gilman dates this letter "about 1832."

from what I expected—and we live very savingly for your sakes - but expenses are increasing every day and cotton sells very low. I am well as usual—and as hand-some as ever—and if you do not come home—perhaps I may find a young lady to keep me company." In a P. S. to Elizabeth's letter in reply—after making some introductory remarks—I said—"I am very sorry that you contemplate taking the children home - as they are now in the midst of their studies—and are progressing as fast and as well as can be expected. Perhaps you think they are burdensome to me. But if that is the case—I beg to undeceive you. For they are and always have been a great comfort to me. I think they should be kept at school if possible until they are fifteen or sixteen years old. They certainly are not expensive. I can give you one instance where you may see the fact. When old Mr Hoffman died-Martin took their youngest child-between the age of Elizabeth and Jane — as his own. That child's yearly expenses exclusive of board-have been rising of two hundred dollars. Since we broke up housekeeping I have paid our little girls board out of my own income - and wish it was in my power to pay all their expenses - but it is not. However - I know dear Mr Miller that cotton has fallen—and that you must feel it. But if you still think it best for them to return home and if some female should be coming from Natchez to New York and you give her the means for the expenses of their Journey-I will do all in my power to prepare them for their departure. But to take one step towards it myself - for their sainted mother's sake - I cannot do it. Because I know it was a comfort to her—in her dying moments—that her daughters were with me." Saturday 11th. I am quite unwell with a terrible sore throat—such as I never had or saw before. Feel disconsolate. Sunday 12th. Confined at home all dayand my throat is dreadful. Monday 13th. Still very much troubled with my throat and some fever. Tuesday 14th. The Docr came home from visiting a patient near St Luke's Church quite sick. Could eat no dinner and went up to my chamber and laid down on the Sofa. When he awoke Eliza was here to see how I was and we ob-

served the Doc^{rs} face was a perfect scarlet. Doc^r Hoit was sent for—who pronounced it scarlet fever. Hannah and the baby are to sleep in my chamber on a trundle bed least the baby take the disease. Wednesday 15th. The Doc^{rs} throat is full of ulcers of a dark color and excefsively sore. He is attended by Dr Hoit and Docr Pond. They are doing all they can for him and I pray a blefsing may attend the means. Thursday 16th. The Docts throat assumes a brighter colour—which is thought rather a favourable circumstance. In the evening Serena and I got him up in the easy chair while we made his bed. I believe if he were not sick I should keep my bed. My throat is in a dreadful state. Friday 17th. The Doers fever has left him - but his throat is still very bad. Got him up again and made his bed. Tuesday 21st I have been so sick my beloved husband for several days past that I could not write a line. This indisposition has caused great depression of spirits and I will resume my pen when I feel better. Friday 24th. I will now try to go on with my Journal. Some days, I have been confined to my bed and since the 17th I have not been out of my chamber. Doer Hoit examined my throat by Chandler's request and prescribed for it very Judiciously. Chandler is convalescing and I desire to acknowledge the mercy of God in restoring me so far as to be able to take up my pen once more. Eliza has been to see me every day - accept when it stormed. Martin has been very attentive — some days he has called twice a day. The Doc^r and Serena also have done for me all that was in their power. If I have been troublesome I am sorry. During my confinement it was a source of comfort to me, to receive newspapers regularly from yourself and dear Arthur. He has been very attentive both in writing and sending papers. Yesterday I received a long letter from him which was as a cordial to me. I rejoice and am thankful that his health is good and his spirits excellent. I humbly pray that his health may be established and that he and his brothers may be instrumental of doing much good wherever they are. I am astonished to see in the margin of all your papers that you have not yet heard from Arthur. Fourteen days after his arrival in New Orleans I received a long and very satisfactory letter from him and since then I have always received his letters and papers in fourteen days from the date. The distance from New Orleans to Alton cannot be so great as from the former place to New York—and why you do not hear from him is misterious. During my confinement there has been caucus's held almost every day and evening in the Hoffman family — sometimes in my chamber which was very amusing to hear - respecting Matilda's match. The young gentleman they say makes himself perfectly ridiculous in the company of sensible people. He is so conceited and opinionated that wherever he goes he intrudes his opinions. They have all put their heads together and are determined if possible to break the match. They hope to do it by persuading her to put off the marriage until next fall. Lin and Sue - Martin and Eliza - are quite fierce for it - and now the Doer and Serena are as anxious that it should not take place as any. A few evenings since the young gentleman was at Lin's with Matilda and Maria. In a few minutes in came Young Ogden Hoffman. After they were introduced the conversation turned on a case that had been tried before Ogden as District Attorney — but they think that Mr — could not have known the circumstances for he took the opposite side and talked with so much vehemence and contradicted Mr H several times flatly - altho he was never in his company before. At last Mr H said in the softest manner — with a bow — well Mr — perhaps it is so - you are perhaps better acquainted with the circumstances than I am - and possibly know more about it. Yes Sir said M^r—I know every circumstance relating to the case - and I know I am correct. While they were disputing not one word was spoken by the restthere sit poor Matilda - Maria - Lin - Sue & Harriot listening—as silent as the grave. They all knew what Ogden thought of him—by his manner. But M' did not and little thought what was passing in the other's mind. Maria says that in the course of conversation it was amusing to see Ogden's sarcastic looks & contemptu-

¹ Hon. Ogden Hoffman was a first cousin of Martin Hoffman and a half-brother of Charles Fenno Hoffman.

She was sorry Matilda was present. But ous manner. then said she—la—Mat is so blind that she did not see any thing—and I dare say she thought — had the best of the argument. When they came out to return home — Mr —— said — well — I never saw Mr Hoffman before. I think he seems like a sensible gentlemanly man enough—Maria said that caped the climax. The next day Harriot told Maria as soon as they had gone - Lin said — well Ogden what do you think of him — Ogden put on one of his most quizical looks, looked up in Lin's face and said—he's got a queer voice—ha'nt he. That was so much like the Judge that they all roared. The family agree that as Martin has always had the care of the family he better write to his mother and tell her the exact situation of affairs—particularly Mr—exceedingly improper principles with regard to religion and advise her to write to Matilda and tell her it is her wish that the marriage should be postponed until fall. They think if it can be put off it may probably never take place. They say there is a want of attention in him. Tis said his mother has an unhappy temper which will probably at a future day make her very unhappy. He has nothing independent of his Parents and they are to live as one familv. The Doc^r says Martin's letter is very good and if the Mother does her duty it will be put off. The letter went vesterday and the answer is expected on Sunday. I cant help pittying the poor simpleton and I feel for her. Saturday 25th A violent storm of rain - snow - and wind. Coal is so very high and scarce that my chamber is nursery and holds us all. I am so unwell that it is often rather a sourse of amusement. Sunday 26th A most delightful day and I am very glad because there is to be a quarterly contribution for the new Organ in Mr Baldwin's church. Last fall they took away the Organ they had when you were here and as the singing is not the best it was so much missed that the Consistory concluded to draw up a subscription paper - take it round - and see what they could collect towards purchasing a new Organ, which would cost six hundred and fifty dollars. They accordingly went round while they were in the spirit of it and collected four hundred and fifty dollars. To night after church the Docr being treasurer as well as one of the managers of the Dutch Reformed Missionary Society he counted the contributions of the day—which amounted to thirty one dollars. I think that is very well for such a small church-Martin and Eliza called after church and they are all full of surmisings and guessing about the expected letter from Stratford. Monday 27th Maria and Harriot called a few moments and told Serena no letter had been rec^d from Stratford. Eliza says a servant brought a letter for Maria — she took it and said to Maria—why that looks like Joe Battell's writing— Maria opened it and found one enclosed from Sarah. Joseph wrote in the cover that the letter was handed him by a stranger—and supposing it was for himself, he opened it, and read until he came to My dearest Maria. And recollecting that sweet name was not his he instantly closed it and sent it to her with many apologies. Martin exclaimed why what a strange coincidence. Don't you remember what Bill—said of Mat's name? Tuesday 28th. Rainy day. We have a storm almost every other day. Eliza sent me three papers from you my beloved husband—one had the bright ten cent piece sealed on the margin - with A W - which always gives me comfort. The little girls eyes glistened when they saw it and wanted to know if it must be changed or whether another was coming. They concluded to keep it and wait. Wednesday 29th You have doubtlefs seen the accounts if not felt the effects of the terrible fresh on the western waters. It is dreadful beyond discription. One account stated thirty horses were seen floating down the river and another that every house in Marietta was swept off but one. I felt extremely distressed for dear Jane1brother Samuel's widow—and others. I wrote to Jane and requested her to give me an account of the terrible scene. I sincerely hope it has not undermined dear Winthrop's warehouse and store. I shall feel anxious until I hear from you. The roads and rivers have been in such a state this winter that I am very fearful you will not receive all my Journals. I was much pleased with a

¹ Mrs. GILMAN's granddaughter Jane Woodbridge who had married in 1828, David Y. Morgan, of Marietta.

sunday school paper you sent and as Sarah Battell is a very zealous sunday school teacher I sent it to her and hope they will all profit by it. Eliza has past this forenoon with me and says Martin has received the strangest letter from his mother that she ever saw. Mrs H says his letter has disquieted her so much that she could not answer it before. She is surprised to hear the account he gave — and until she knows something more she cannot do any thing towards postponing the marriage. That Matilda writes as if she was perfectly happy and she does not chuse to interrupt it. That when Mr - was at Stratford she conversed with him on religious subjects and thought he was very correct. She knows that if the marriage was put off the family would be very angry, and therefore it will not do. Then says she thanks him for the invitation to pals Easter at his house—but as three of her family are now around his board she shall pass the time she is in town at the Docrs and next year she shall pass Easter at her dear Lin's. Martin and Eliza are perfectly astonished. For she said when last here she should always make their house her home whenever she came to town. Time perhaps will unravel the mystery. Thursday March 1st. Martin and Eliza past last evening with us and were almost all the time talking about the marriage and the letter. Martin says his mother might as well laid his letter on the shelf and not read it. He thinks they have all here been treeted with perfect contempt. But he says—a few years hence—when has lost the other eye - and she calls upon them for a maintenance - she will think of her letter. He says when they are married he will give them a party and then she goes out of their family. Matilda and Maria called this forenoon. She has purchased her wedding drefs and is having it made. Now dear Arthur I will talk a little with you. Your letter of the 4th Ulto gave us all more pleasure than I can express. Eliza will write Mrs Conrey as you wish. I am grieved to hear such inteligence of ____ Jaudon. And I may say the rest of them. What a grief it would have been to their pious father had he lived to see his children now. The righteous are taken from the evil to come. I regret that you called their on the sab-





Benj. Ives Ghaman From a copper plate engraving by de St. Memin, 1801

bath. My dear son—pray keep that precious day holy. Let it be known that you do not visit on the sabbath. Remember the solemn words of your Saviour—"Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words—of him shall the son of man be ashamed when he shall come in his own glory—and in his fathers—and of the holy angels." Let it always be seen my son—wherever you are—that you are not ashamed of Christ. Do leave that country as soon as you can. The family all send love—often talk of you and long to see you. Write as often as you can to your lonely Mother.

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. Martin Hoffman, New York.

Lower Alton March 8th 1832.

Many thanks to You, my dear Daughter, for your affectionate communication of the 2^d ul^t Persons who are at home, in Cities, can have no adequate ideas, of the anxieties of those who are absent, and of their gratification

derived from family letters.

My patience has been severely taxed this winter, in consequence of the repeated failures of the Mail, for at Alton we had no other source of amusement, and when one post came in, we began to count the days and hours that must pass, before another could be expected. You say my "last letter" to your dear Mother had been received. I am at a loss to conjecture how you ascertained the fact of its being "the last"—Had you refer'd to the date, it would have been more satisfactory, but I presume such a reference would have been too much in the Counting-House style for a Lady.

I trust your anxiety respecting my project, for remaining here through the season, and sending for your beloved Mother, has ere this been relieved by my letters of the 9th & 17th ul^t—in which I mentioned my intention of leaving this place, so soon as your brother W——returned from New Orleans. I am now apprehensive that it will be as late as the 20th of next month before it will be proper for me to commence the journey eastward. My time is now constantly & not unpleasantly occupied in

superintending the finishing of the Stone Warehouse, levelling grounds &c &c — I am now boarding at Mr Millers, a pleasant situation on the bank of the "Father of Rivers'.—The table is abundantly furnished with a variety of provisions. & Mrs M—— gives us good Coffee with the necessary accompaniments every morning.

You have had a very crouded House the past Winter and Mr Hoffman must have had a troublesome time collecting provisions for so many mouths: enough to make him sick of housekeeping. Your mother ought to have finished her visit in fix days, instead of prolonging it to fix weeks. You often say that I always look at the dark side: neverthelefs, I feel it to be my duty to remind you that the golden hours of prosperity may not always last. Therefore it behooves you to avoid, in your department, all unnecessary expences, in order that provision may be made for "a rainy day"—I wish all my children to abide by my precepts, & to avoid my examples. If I had been more cautious & prudent, your beloved Mother would not, in the decline of life, have been without a home. It is, however, in one view her choice, for if she had been disposed to leave New York, we could here have found independence, respectability, & a "Home". No person ever more delighted in the society of their children, or was more fondly attached, than myself: still I would sacrifice these feelings, sooner than lead a life of idleness, upon a stinted income, among the Nabobs of New York. In short it is my wish, as the natives say "to paddle my own Canoe." It is determined otherwise, and I must be humble & Submissive: yet it is my sincere belief that if any virtues have fallen to my lot, humility is not among the number.

We are vet without any particulars of the great flood upon the Ohio, and I fear our worthy friend M' Whitney has been a sufferer. I have great apprehensions for the safety of Benjamins Boats & property on the Wabash.

We have not a word from that river.

Winthrop I trust is at New Orleans by this time, and we shall expect him home, by the first of April. From dear Arthur, you doubtlefs receive your regular advices by the packets.

Thank the Doctor, in my behalf, for his postscript, & M^r Hoffman for a late number of the Journal of Commerce.

Now that my return to New York is determined upon, I feel quite impatient to commence the Journey. My health has been good, until within a few days, but I am now troubled with a cold & bad head ach. I send news papers every week, Tuesday & Friday. Remember me affectionately to Serena to Your Husband & give my Love to your dear Mother. I hope & trust that kind Providence will permit us once more to meet with thankful hearts.

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Dr. Chandler R. Gilman had a son, Robert Hale, born July 20, 1832, and Mrs. Martin Hoffman's eldest son. Lindley Murray, was born December 10th of the same year. During the spring of 1833 Mrs. Gilman's granddaughters, Elizabeth and Jane, were placed in the boarding-school of the Misses S. and N. Kellogg, Great Barrington, Mass. The prospectus is so indicative of the time that extracts are given. "A mild and conciliatory treatment will be constantly maintained, so far as it can be done consistently with wholesome discipline; and, it is believed that young Misses in the family will realize but little change from the kindness and care usually received from judicious parents. . . The battle-door, the skipping-rope, and the swing, together with the occasional ride and ramble, present their peculiar advantages. . . The terms, including board and tuition, are \$100. a year. . . French per qr., \$4. Music, 8. Fine Needlework, \$1.50. Washing, 37 cts per dozen." In the rather long list of clothes sent with the children are: "1 large merino shawl, 1 small Do. 2 calico capes, 2 white Do. 1 pr prunell shoes, 1 blk silk dress, 1 gingham sunbonnet, 1

straw Do." No one who has not worn the last named instrument of torture, can fancy what it was. Being made of hard straw, it rasped one's ears all the time and was the ordinary summer hat children had even as late as the fifties.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth and Jane Miller, Great Barrington, Mass.¹

New York, July 1st, 1833

Miss Kellogg, my dear children, will leave the City tomorrow. By her I send you your capes; Jane will know her's because it is pieced. Also, your pink belts, the lamp stand pattern, six collars to stitch for your Cousin Samuel, six neck-gufsetts, and six pair of wrist-bands; you will find them all fixed ready to begin. You must do them at your leisure, only have them done when I come to Barrington, which I hope will be in the course of this month. I did hope that I should have the pleasure of announcing your Uncle Arthur's arrival, but he has not arrived altho we have been expecting him the week past. He has been out twenty days, a very tedious passage. Little Lindley has been rather unwell for some time and this morning your Uncle Martin and Aunt Eliza took him to Stratford to stay until next Friday. Your Uncle Doc* thought the sea air might be beneficial.

We are impatient to see dear Arthur on your account, as well as our own. For we expect to go to Barrington with him, and I think the journey will be an advantage to your Aunt Eliza's baby. Your Aunt Serena is quite tired staying at Athens and is to return this evening, so it will not be in her power to visit you with us. Our anxiety for dear Winthrop is extremely great. We saw an account this morning of their being one case of Cholera in Alton. May a merciful God protect him and spare us to meet again. Your Grandpa sends much love to you both. He says he shall write to you, by me. I shall write again before I see you. I am rejoiced to hear so good an account of you by Miss Kellogg and I hope, my dear children, you will every day improve in wisdom and

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

understanding. Never forget to acknowledge God in all your ways and he will direct your paths. I shall send your father a newspaper tomorrow. Your Uncle Isaac Robbins has made us a visit with his daughter Mary, and Miss Mary Waters, who resides in Alexandria, came with them so as to be a companion for Mary. They are both very amiable, and I think Mary Waters is the most perfectly beautiful girl I ever saw, and amiable in every respect. They were very sorry they could not see you both and desired me to give you a great deal of love when I wrote. Harriot Hoffman passed a day with them here and was much pleased.

It is late in the afternoon and I must take the bundle to Miss Kellogg myself. O how I miss my dear little girls. The girls all send love. Give my kind love to Elizabeth Starr. She will probably hear from home by this opportunity. They are all well. Present my love to

your excellent teachers.

From your affectionate Grandmaa

H. Gilman.

My pen is shocking—and I wish you would burn this as soon as you have read it.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth and Jane Miller, Great Barrington, Mass.¹

New York, July 1833

I have just received your letter, my dear children, and am grieved that you have been so greatly disappointed in not seeing us before this time. If you had received my last letter sent by Miss Kellogg, you would have known the reason of our delay. I am extremely sorry to hear that Miss Kellogg's father had been so sick as to detain them in this City to the present time and most sincerely pray that his life, so precious to his family, may yet be lengthened many years. Mrs Smith (Mrs. Chandler Starr's mother) whom I saw last evening, told me of his sickness and that they were still in this city. Mrs.

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

C. R. Starr will hand you this and will tell you all about us. My anxiety for your dear Uncle Winthrop is so great that it is impossible for me to say when we shall commence our intended journey to Great Barrington, but I trust we shall be so happy as to see you soon. You must not expect us until you see us. Whether your Grand-pa will accompany us is uncertain, but we cannot leave the City without either hearing from or seeing Winthrop. In his last letter he mentioned that the Cholera was at Alton and as nurses could not be procured to take care of the sick, he and one more offered their services to the physicians, and they were accepted. So that he was with the sick and dying, constantly. May the Al-

mighty be his shield and defence.

I sent you yesterday, Badger's Weekly Mefsenger, which had an extract in it from Winthrop's last letter. I am glad to hear of the manner in which you pafs your time, and I shall be glad to hear the same of Jane. I hope, my dear Jane, you will now improve your precious time and study to make yourself useful and agreeable to all. Your Aunt Serena has taken both her children to Stratford. Your Aunt Eliza is well and will, I think, write you by Mrs. Starr. If she does not write you will soon see her as her little Lindley boy is not well and they are anxious he should go into the country. Your Uncle Arthur desires me to present his love and say to you that he hopes to see you in the course of two weeks. All unite in love to you both. Give my love to Elizabeth Starr.

From your truly affectionate Grand-ma, H. G.

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At this time Benj. Ives Gilman was with his wife and children in New York, but he soon started on his last journey to Alton, where his youngest son, Winthrof S. Gilman, was in a business that became very successful. Mrs. Gilman's cousin, Philemon Robbins Starr, loaned her son Winthrop the necessary capital.

Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth II. and Jane Miller, Great Barrington, Mass.¹

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

New York, July 24th, 1833

I cannot, my dear Grand-daughters, make my communication as interesting as the letters of your beloved Grand Ma'a, but as the hours pass heavily away in her absence, I am glad to beguile time, by writing.

You are very pleasantly situated at G. Barrington I am told, with an abundance of play-mates; but you must always bear on your minds the importance of duly improv-

ing present opportunities.

Your deportment upon all occasions, I hope and trust, will be such as to insure the approbation of the Ladies who have the charge of your education. In the formation of character, the first thing (in my opinion) to fix, is an habitual regard to simple truth. For instance, if you see a brown Cow in the street, it would not be proper to say you saw a black Cow. Althouthe fact is perfectly immaterial, still it is of consequence to have your statement perfectly correct; so that from habit as well as principle, you would never deviate. what are called white lies, as well as giving false imprefsions, should be held in perfect abhorrence.

It is not uncommon for young Girls at School to fancy they are not so well treated as might be, or that the Teachers are partial: now you must avoid all such cabals, for in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the Scholars

are in the wrong.

I hope the conduct and the behavior of both of my dear Grand Daughters, will be such as to gain the esteem and good will of all their School-mates; but avoid confidants. If any young lady should offer to communicate a great secret, provided you would promise never to tell any mortal, you must in a playful manner decline, by saying you have not full confidence in your powers of keeping secrets. By this course you may avoid many unpleasant difficulties. In such cases the profound secret is generally communicated to half a dosen persons, and the story of course would be given to the winds, and those who were faithful to their engagements might be much blamed.

If there should be any little quarrels or squabbles among the scholars, keep aloof, and avoid becoming parti-

zans. Of your prudence, Elizabeth, we entertain a good opinion; but as to you, my dear Jane, I think you are rather fond of a breeze. But it will be much better to attend strictly to your studies, for after all there would be no great pleasure in raising "a tempest in a tea pot."

I am afraid the visits of your beloved Grand Mother and Aunt with the interesting baby, have interrupted the course of your studies and that I shall hear of your being at the foot of your classes. Endeavor to redeem the time, and in future we must manage affairs better. When your friends come to visit you they must only be allowed to stay one night at G. Barrington.

Yesterday we had the pleasure of receiving a letter from your Uncle Winthrop dated the 9th inst., which relieved us from great anxiety. He was in good health and spirits, and the Cholera had disappeared at Alton.

Your Uncle Arthur is very desirous that I should again visit Alton, and probably I shall leave N. York the first

of next month.

As your Grand-Mother will doubtless have left G. B. before this can arrive, I wish you to communicate, per first mail, the agreeable news from Alton: provided she went to Norfolk.

Altho I am too old to become your correspondent, yet I take a lively interest in your present pursuits, and hope to have a good account of your proficiency. I am glad to hear you are taking lessons in Botany, a science which is peculiarly appropriate for your sex. Do not suffer the long scientific names to discourage the pursuit.

Your affectionate Grand Parent,

Benja Ives Gilman

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dr. Chandler R. Gilman, New York.

Alton 5th Sep^r 1833

My Dear Son,

I wrote to your beloved Mother the day after my arrival (31st ult.) mentioning that I found Winthrop well but somewhat enfeebled by a short attack of bilious fever, and from excefsive fatigue.

At Columbus (Ohio) I met the Cholera, where it was making frightful ravages, and was still worse at Lebanon (30 miles N. E. of Cincinnati.) This scourge is attended or followed by a Fever which has taken off many valuable inhabitants. One case of Cholera occur'd in this County (10 miles distant) which terminated fatally on Monday last. I was sorry to find, on my journey, and since my arrival here, that many of the Physicians advise moderate doses of Brandy & Water. The disease has certainly assumed a more alarming aspect this year, as at least One half of the Cases have been persons perfectly temperate.

Mr Jenny was a long time on the road, & only arrived eight days before me. He is now at Upper Alton, confined by the prevailing fever, but is not considered dan-

gerous.

In consequence of M^r Mannings arrangement for taking possession of his own dwelling, we shall have to keep House this Winter, as mentioned in my letter to your mother, and if not annoyed by bad servants, it will be more pleasant. I hope my letter may arrive in time, so that Arthur may forward 2 double, and 2 fingle bedsteads and a time piece. Will you enquire of the Maker of the patent bedsteads, whether he would sell the irons,

to be put into bedsteads made here.

I trust Arthur forwarded ½ Quintal of Dun fish. When convenient, I wish you would call on Corning & Smith (front St below Coenties Slip) and ask whether sales are closed of 20 bbls Beef, which I placed in their hands for sale. Winthrop wants the a/c to enable him to close his provision acct of the last season. Perhaps Arthur attended to the business. The sickness of the present season, will retard the growth of Alton, although it has not been so severe, as in many places, heretofore deemed healthy. The Crop of wheat has been very fine, and it astonishes me to see the quantities daily brot to the Steam Mill. If that concern is well managed, it will be be more lucrative than a Georgia Gold Mine.

I feel quite uneasy about your dear Mother. The Ohio is very low, and I fear the journey will be tedious and

fatiguing.

Winthrop has encountered difficulties sufficient to break down a common character. He will be greatly relieved in the commercial department when Arthur & Capt Godfrey arrive, and the watchful care & afsiduities of his dear Mother I trust will soon restore him to wonted good health. I am not without hopes that Benjamin will think it for his interest to remove to this place. It may not be as pleasant as Terre Haute, but I think he would eventually find it more profitable.

Tell my dear Eliza that She need not be alarmed at the project of House-keeping. Her Mother will not be much pleased with Illinois, and in the Spring, if our Lives are spared, She will hasten to New York to see her

dear Children & Grand Children.

I wish you would put two Newspapers into the Post Office on the same day, one directed to Me at Lower Alton, via S^t Louis, the other to Winthrop in the usual way. Love to All.

Your Affect Parent Benjⁿ Ives Gilman

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The many sorrows and business troubles of Benj. Ives Gilman Sr. had worn upon his sensitive nature and when, on this visit to his sons in Alton, Ill., he was attacked by a low fever, he could make no resistance to the disease. He died October 13, 1833, aged sixty-seven.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York.2

Lower Alton 15th October 1833.

Dear brother,

I wrote to Martin a few days since in order to prepare your minds to receive the melancholy news I have now to tell. Our dear father's illness terminated fatally on Sabbath night at half past eight o'clock, about three hours after the arrival of mother & Arthur. They had expected to meet him at the landing in health & the shock

¹ Arthur Gilman and Captain Godfrey entered into partnership with Winthrop S. Gilman under the name of Godfrey, Gilman and Co. Later Benj. Ives Gilman Jr. entered the firm.

² MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

was very great to both, yet I desire to thank God Maa is wonderfully supported under this affliction. When it was made know to Paa that they had arrived he said - "Is she come" & soon after maa approached his dying bed with perfect & heavenly calmness & had the great satisfaction of being recognized & known by him altho' he was so far gone as hardly to be able to articulate. From the first of his illness I feared much it would prove fatal, as the disease appeare'd obstinate & did not yield to medicines. As near as I can remember I will now give you a history of his sickness. On Sunday night the 6' he had very chilly sensations on going to bed & I believe some fever during the night, but did not complain much until after rising on Monday when I administer'd a dose of about 20 G. Calomel & at 1. o.clock gave him oil; being troubled with excessive nausea without vomiting, I called in D' Emerson, who gave him more calomel & purgative medicines. & he appeared rather better but very much prostrated & his tongue still looked very black & the fever was thought to be bilious remittent. About Wednesday he could not sit up at all & the nausea continued so that he slept but little on thursday night. Calomel was still given & the bowels kept open & the discharges appeared as frequent as desirable a blister was applied to releive the Stomach which did not draw for many hours & about 2 at night he called me to his bed side & told me that the blister did not draw & he felt symptoms quite unfavourable I told him to be encouraged I hoped it would draw & he be releived—he said "My Son I hope so too, but unlefs it does I shall not see the light of another Sabbabth." he then gave me charge concerning the little business he had on his mind, with the most complete composure, & I aske'd him how he felt in regard to the change; he said that on that subject his mind had been settled for a number of years & he hoped his sins would be forgiven him, that his constant prayer to God had been that he would be merciful to him a sinner. After this he named several little things he wished me to do about the house on the hill &c. The blister however drew & for several hours he was much releived, his tongue looked better & he slept calmly & sweetly & we all felt much encouraged & the physician ordered some few tonics & he to be watched very closely—the nausea however returned & Saturday night he slept but very little. Sunday morning, the Physicians Drs Haskell & Emerson (probably the most skillful in this part of the Country) found it necessary to resort to more violent means to break up the progress of the disease and resorted to emetic powders mixed with considerable calomel of which he took about 7, hour after hour, & had his feet in a warm bath for 2 hours, but all without the desired effect. & from that time altho' he had some operations of the bowels, he seemed to fail & in the afternoon was troubled with hickup. We had heard of the arrival of Maa & Arthur at St. Louis & our anxiety was great that they might reach Alton before his decease. It was a great satisfaction to us all that Paa retained his senses to the last, but oh! how grateful should we be to our God for bringing his wife & son to see him before his death. Maa is greatly supported by the consolations of religion & by the sympathies of many good friends — Mr Jenney in particular, who having but 2 weeks before lost his young & interesting wife by bilious fever, has been almost constantly with her & shown the greatest kindness and attention. During Paa's illness Benjamin & myself were almost constantly with him & Mr & Mrs Manning were very kind & attentive, doing every thing in their power to make him comfortable. Maa told Arthur to say that she wished you to break this news to Eliza in the kindest & most affectionate manner possible, & that she wished you now to redouble your attentions to her for her sake. From the Providences of God may we all learn, how uncertain & how short this state of existence is, & may none of us be contented until we are in that situation in life, where as stewards of the Lord God, we are exercising our faculties, our powers, our all in that way which shall most advance the eternal interests of ourselves & Others. My mind is I could almost say harrassed with care, on account of our business here, which in consequence of the continued sickness of one clerk after another, has gone more & more behind hand for 6 weeks past. I hope now it will be more healthy—some of the family will probably write soon Meantime with love to all I am yr aff brother W S Gilman

P. S. Enclosed is check for 437.48 end: to Martin's order (orig¹ [torn] to him a few days since—to pay our note to P. H. Sch[torn] 25 & 28. inst at U. S. Bank at New Y.

Also paymasters Check for 20\$ & 6\$ in Phila & N York

bills [torn].

Some boxes may come from N Orleans to you for I Dore N York [torn] will please deliver him, he paying you the freight & charges [torn].

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman'to her children, New York.

My beloved children—Chandler & Serena—Martin & Eliza. You have perhaps thought hard of your Mother because she has not written to you before. But O do not think so. My soul is in heavinefs. God has come very near to us. He has laid his hand heavily upon us. The desire of my eyes—he has taken with a stroke. But blefsed be God he has enabled me to say—The Lord gave—the Lord hath taken away—blefsed be the name of the Lord. He wounds that he may heal. O what a consolation in scenes like this—to remember that we have not an high Priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities - but who was tried in all points as we are - yet without sin. That the same father who inflicts the wound - Knows all the pangs which his chastisements will occasion and feels with a fathers tenderness for all the sorrows of his children. Let us with humility and confidence put our trust in him-for he careth for us and will not lay upon us more than he will enable us to bear. And O may this heavy bereavement be blest of God-to myself and to each one of my beloved children, for our Spiritual and everlasting good. May it be the means of bringing us all nearer to him. May we now be more anxious than ever to lead a life of faith on the Son of God-and a life of prayer. O my children-keep near to a throne of grace. Let not the cares and vanities of this unsatisfying world keep you from God. Go to him often as to a father. Not only around the family Altar—but in secret pour out your hearts to him. For he loves to meet his children there that he may hear their petitions and relieve their sorrows. I love to go there. For when I am low he comforts me. Like as a father pittieth his children so the Lord nitieth them that fear and love him. I praise him for all the dispensations of his Providence. Mercies have been mixed with all my afflictions - and I can see his blefsed hand in all my trials. Lord enable me to say from the heart—not my will but thine O Lord be done. My dear children will want to hear something of their departed Parent, Mrs Manning—dear Mrs Manning who was to him like his dear Eliza told me that on his arrival he appeared rather feeble - but never complained and was always pleasant. He was able to walk to the store and employ himself by assisting Winthrop, until they all moved to Mr Mannings new house—that Winthrop might be arranged before our arrival—for my housekeeping. They had been moved one week when poor Mrs Jenney died - whose house Joined Mr Mannings in the same block. Your Paa seemed much affected with her death—but still for a week after went daily to Winthrops house to have every thing in order for me. Mrs M says that he never came home but had something to say about my arrival. Yet she observed that he always spoke in submission to Divine Providence. She says he often mentioned that he would have such and such things done - and then correct himself and say if I am so happy as to see Mrs Gilman—but I often think that life is uncertain—I dont know that I shall ever be so happy. Mrs Jenney left this world on Saturday and your dear father was taken sick the next week on wednesday. He had Doc Emmerson and Doc Haskell. Every thing they all say was done for him that human means could devise—but medicine did not operate as was wished and he sunk under extreme debility. On sabbath afternoon the 13th inst our boat came in sight of Alton. As we approached I looked for my beloved husband— Benin — or Winthrop but passed the town without that pleasing sight. Just as we were going to land - W came down alone. O what a pang I felt. When he came on

board—I said where is your Paa? He threw himself upon my bosom—and wept so that he could not speak. I said is your father alive. He replied he is dangerously sick and I am afraid he will never be any better. O Lord "did not my heart strings break." We walked to the house—we were met by Benjamin—who had been sick with chills & fever and looked emaciated and sick. Mrs Manning soon threw her arms around me and said O Mrs Gilman I shall never be thankful enough that you have arrived. Poor Mr Jenney then met me - and then the Docr came down and said I must be composed & not go into the chamber until I was perfectly calm. My prayers asscended to my covenant God and he heard and answered my petitions. After the Doc had told him that we had arrived I went up first—approached his bed kifsed his face and said sweetest darling You" be better now I have come - he looked at me and said something that I could not hear. I was enabled to rub him with hot Brandy and to assist as long as life remained. He shew a desire that I should give him his drinks — and I said to him - my darling husband do you know me? he answered faintly yes. fearful that he did not and anxious to know I said who is it dear. He replied Mrs Gilman. Which words were the last that he uttered. And in one short hour—while his wife, and three sons and dear friends that loved and lamented him were watching at his bed side—I heard Mr Jenney say—not a struggle nor a groan. I sprang to him but his spirit had taken its flight-I humbly trust to mansions of everlasting rest. And may we all my beloved children be prepared to spend a blefsed Eternity with him at the feet of Jesus. I can write no more. About two days after the burial of my beloved husband Arthur had a return of spiting blood. He was at the store and it came up several mouthsfull more he thinks than he had while in New York - and he came up to the house. I gave him a teaspoonfull of salt disolved in a little water — which he drank and since that day he has not had any return of it. He was troubled with a hacking cough from the time he left N Y. I have given him constantly Horehound syrups and slippery Elm tea. He eats nothing but mush and milk and vegetables.

He began to day to ride on horseback and appears I think better than he has been since he left you. I pray and trust that with the blefsing of God his health will be restored and be made a subject of Divine grace. Benjamin's health is improving and I pray my dear children that your lives and health may be precious in the sight of God. I have felt very anxious about my dear little Grandchildren—as Robert & Lindley have been sick. Particularly do I want to hear that dear little Robert is recovering from his protracted illnefs.

Write my dear children to your deeply afflicted Mother.

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Dr. C. R. Gilman to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, Lower Alton, Ill.

New York Oct^o 30th 1833

My dear Mother, Yes my doubly dear mother, when I think that you are a widow, my heart dies within me, but when I remember that you are a Christian, I blefs God and take courage. This morning after a week of intense anxiety we learn from Winthrops letter that the worst we had anticipated from his letter of 9th was realized Martin broke the news to Eliza before I arrived She was dreadfully agitated. I stave with her some time, then went Home - sent Serena down to Walker Street and myself remaind at home all day alone - and yet I humbly trust not quite alone I humbly hope my God was with me and that we took sweet communion together. What "a refuge in distrefs" What "a very present help in time of trouble" is our God. He it is that bids us not sorrow as those that Have no hope—He will in his own good time and way pour a balm into the wound of the Spirit and Be in very truth - The God of the Widow -The Father of the Fatherless. I will not say, dear Mother trust in him - look to him - he has been your afsured trust in times that are past-your guide from your youth up - and he will not forsake you in your old age. To him and to the Word of His grace I commit you my dear Mother—His grace be with you.

The Children (Elizabeth and Jane) are with us and

shew a deep sense of their bereavement. My children are well—so is Serena who will add a line to this—Eliza is more composed this evening. We are with her, tis from Walker S^t I write.

Give my kindest love to my dear Brothers. Benjamin I hope is quite well. Oh that we may be more affectionate more kind—more united than we have ever yet been. Eliza is very anxious that you should come on before the Winter closes in. I think If this reaches you soon enough it will be the best plan. Do Dear Mother come to us our love—our Duty—our hearts are all yours. I hope some plan will be devised some opportunity offer for the East. Serena & Eliza will each add a line so I must close.

Love to all—Your affectionate son—

Chandler Robbins Gilman

My dear Mother, May God blefs, comfort, and support you. under this afflicting dispensation of his Providence, and make us submifsive to his will, is the prayer of your devotedly attached daughter Serena Gilman

31st Oct—Thursday A M.

My darling Mother what shall I say to comfort you? Nothing—nothing—I can only bear you on my poor afflicted heart to a throne of grace & mercy & pray God to comfort you. He has promised to be with us in trouble, therefore we will look to Him alone for the consolation He will surely afford us. Oh may this bitter affliction be sanctified to us all—wean us from the world—make us more watchful—more prayerful—more devoted to the service of our God than we have ever yet been - & when He shall see fit to remove us hence, may we meet my precious, precious Father in a world of Glory. I trust we shall hear from you my beloved Mother by the mail of to day. I cannot express to you the anxiety I feel on your account — do come to us my Mother before the long, dreary winter sits in. Martin unites with me in Kindest love & sympathy & begs you will come on without delay & make your future home with us - every attention which gratitude & devoted affection can render — shall be yours. I have a hope that you will even have left Alton before this arrives, could not dear Benjⁿ come on with you, it would perhaps benefit his health & he could return by the

middle of Dec^r. I cannot think of your passing the winter in Illinois—you will of necessity have so many lonely hours. Cannot my dear brothers devise some way for your return—I am sure they would not wish you to remain—do come to me my beloved Mother—& May our God protect you & grant ever the comforts of his Holy Spirit is the prayer of y^r attached child

Eliza

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth and Jane Miller, Great Barrington, Mass.

Lower Alton, Ills. Dec.28, 1833

I have long been wishing, my dear children, to write you - but I could not. My soul has been in heavinefs. God has come very near us. He has laid his hand heavily upon us. The desire of my eyes and the joy of my heart he has taken with a stroke, — but blefsed be God, he has enabled me to say - not my will but thine, O Lord, be done. You, my beloved children, have lost a most affectionate grandparent, one who loved you and was deeply interested in all your pursuits and anxious for your improvement in knowledge and growth in grace. O never forget his advice and lessons of instructions. It is a consolation to me and I hope it will be so to you, in scenes like this, to remember that we have not an high Priest that cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities but who was tried in all points, as we are, yet without sin. That the same Father who inflicts the wound knows all the pangs which his chastisements will occasion and feels, with a father's tenderness, for all the sorrows of his children. May we all with humility and confidence, put our trust in him for he careth for us and will not lay upon us more than he will enable us to bear. And O may this heavy bereavement be blest of God to vou too, my beloved children, for your spiritual good. May it be the means of bringing you both to a crucified Redeemer, May you now be more anxious than ever, to secure that

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

better part which will never be taken from you. Let not the pleasures and vanities of this unsatisfying world keep you from pleading with God for an interest in that atonement which Jesus has made for your sins, my dear children, and for the sins of the world. You have nothing to recommend you, for you are both sinners. You must go with all your sins, lay them at the foot of the cross, and there plead the merits of Jesus for acceptance with God, and may you both have no rest until you find it in the Ark, Christ Jesus.

Your kind letter, my dear Elizabeth, was received yesterday, dated Nov. 28th, post mark Dec. 3rd. By a letter I had received from your Aunt Eliza I heard you were both well and had returned to your school. I regret to hear you have had a fall but hope it will not injure you

seriously.

They have had a protracted meeting in this [torn] several were anxious and some I trust have [torn] blessed hope. Your dear Uncle Arthur, I [torn] among that number. Your Uncle Winthrop [made a] publick profession of religion, since I [came to this] place. O what shall I render to the Lord for all his goodness. I praise him for all the dispensations of his Providence. Mercies have been mixed with all my afflictions and I can see his blessed hand in all my trials. And blessed be [torn] He has enabled me to say—Tho he slay me, yet will I trust in him.

I hope, my dear Elizabeth you will, (if you have not) write to your father and tell him of our bereavement. If my life is spared I shall probably see you both in May or June, whenever your uncles take the journey. That you may both be blest of God, my dears, in time and in eternity, is the daily prayer of your ever affectionate Grandma.

H. Gilman.

Your Uncle Winthrop sends you a great deal of love. Remember me with respect and affection to the Milses Kellogg and to my dear cousin [torn]

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Arthur Gilman to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York.1

New Orleans Jany 4th 1834

Dear Doctor.

By the Ship Orleans, Capt. Fowler, sailed for New York last Saturday, I sent in charge of the Steward a bundle containing Our beloved Father's green cloth cloak, which Maa wished forwarded to you. I wrote you a few lines by the Ship & hope you may receive the bundle in Safety. It is directed to you No 160 Green St. The Steward is part Indian. Captn. Godfrey & myself (as you have doubtless heard) left Alton On 6th ulto for this place pr S. B. Missourian & on 14th, when rounding out from a woodyard 25 miles below Natchez, one of the flues collapsed with a tremendous explosion & severely scalded 15 persons, twelve of whom have since died. The Missourian, was an Upper Cabin Boat to which circumstance, under Providence, I attribute the escape of the Cabin passengers. In most of the Upper Cabin Boats on this river, there is an opening in the cabin floor under the dining table, (to give room for the fly wheels,) which is covered by a wooden box. Had it not been for this, I presume we (in the cabin) would not have experienced any thing more than a severe jar. As it was, however, the Steam came up thro' this place dashing box, dinner table & dinner up against the roof with great violence. Had it happened 10 minutes later we should probably been seated round the table & all of us more or less injured. I was seated, at the time, in the back part of the cabin leaning in one of the lower births, looking out the window & while wondering what the noise was, before I could turn round, I found myself enveloped in hot steam. I instantly raised the pillow on which I was resting & bound it as tight round my face as I could hold it. In this situation I remained until the roaring of the steam out of the boilers ceased, then pushed back the window & scrambled out on the guard. When the steam was sufficiently dissipated to enable us to see distinctly—a

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

² See Noyes-Gilman Ancestry, 209,

Scene presented itself among the deck passengers below, which I have often heard described, but the horrors of which it is impossible to realise without witnessing. A poor German, wife & 4 children (all unable to speak english) were dreadfully scalded—the youngest a babe of 13 months had its little hands full of the skin which had peald off its arms & skin also hanging from its face - it died the next day in strong convulsions & was buried in same grave with its Mother - another sister was also buried on the coast & still another after arriving here. What added to the distress was there was Scarce any Sweet Oil on board & for more than an hour we could do nothing for them but cut their cloathes off & wrap them in Blankets. almost everything on the range with the boilers was swept off. The accident was in my view altogether Owing to neglect on part of the engineers. I sent you a paper the Night after we arrived here, which I hope you received. I wrote our dear Mother in a few hours after the accident & trust she received my letter before hearing of it. Thus has another been added to the many Solemn warnings I have had "to be also ready" & I pray to God it may not pass unimproved. Oh, how many proofs we have had in our family, of the folly of placing our hopes of happiness upon the things of this world, God grant that we may all realise constantly that this is not our abiding place & be enabled by his grace, to press onward in the narrow path that leads to unfading joys at his right hand. I wrote you some time before I left Alton, in regard to my health & requesting Copy of Mr Wallace's letter to me—the answer to which I hope to receive in a few days via Alton. It is now most unusually cold here & the streets are covered 2 or 3 inches with snow, which has not been the case here before for a great number of years. My health has been improving since I left A- until this cold weather, which as usual, makes my breast & throat very sore. You have probably heard, thro' Maa, of the loss we sustained by the burning of the S. B. New Brunswick—which Boat had on board the cask of glass & china Maa bought of Gulick (\$50.75) the horizontal connecting posts with the cast iron joints of the 3 Patent Bedsteads & lastly Martins

box of Champaigne intended as a present to Wint. The head & foot Boards of the Bedsteads were in a box by themselves & sent by another Boat. I think you had better call on Hewitt & ask him if he can make other connecting posts that would be Sure to fit & if he can, advise Wint of it, in which case, if he shd not have disposed of the head & foot Boards, W. will no doubt order them made. By referring to his Books he can tell what kind of bedsteads they were. Two if I remember right were of the Kind he Sells at \$16 ea & One (a) \$14.—double, all of them. Tell Martin I tried hard to buy some town property for him while at Alton, but differed \$50 in the price of a house & lot \$700 being asked & I offered only \$650. I told W. however, I thought he had better give \$700 the next time he saw the man if he would take it & hope he may be able to close at that price. Give my best love to Serena, Eliza & Martin. I long to see all the dear children. I expect to remain here until about 10 March & wish you w^d write (care NewKirk & Olden) & let me Know how you get on in a pecuniary view &c &c. Our business is very prosperous & if you she want it hereafter I think we can afford you all the assistance in that way you will require. Ben, I expect will be married in the Spring & remove to Alton, but as it is by no means certain please not circulate it. Tell Eliza I she glad to hear from her. Give my respects to Mrs H & fam & rem to Mr Starr. Yr aff Bro-8th.—Cold still continues. It is reported several persons were frozen to death on Saturday night in the streets. Ther^m fell 36 degress in 24 hours. How much of the amt. remitted by Mr Whitney was paid to Howe, Godfrey & Robinson on a/c Capt. G.? Love to all Yr aff Bro.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. Martin Hoffman, New York.

Lower Alton January 16th 1834

I am extremely anxious my dear Eliza to receive a letter from you—as by the Docrs kind letter dated 14th Ulto we were informed that you were not well. He how-

ever told me not to be anxious about any of you, for if any thing occurred of a serious nature he certainly would write. That blefsed promise —Leave thy fatherlefs children—and I will keep them alive—has been my support and comfort in my darkest hours. I mentioned in a letter I have sent the Doc that Capt Godfrey & Arthur left us, on the 6th Ulto in the Steam Boat Missourian. On friday 27th Ult^o Winthrop heard a report by a gentleman from St Louis — that the Mifsourian had burst her boilers—but none of the cabin passengers were injured. He concluded not to tell Mrs Godfrey (who boards with Mrs Manning) and myself until he heard more particularly. On sunday 29th we all went to church as usual and as the weather was cold and windy I told Mrs Manning and Mrs Godfrey that I would remain in church alone in the intermission. There was a good fire & I was reading an interesting book which M^r Jenney lent me when a woman came in and took her seat in front of me. She was an utter stranger to me and after a minute or two she turned round quick and said Mrs Gilman did you hear that the steam boat Capt Godfrey went in had burst her boilers? My spirit, almost died within me. I sprang up in an agony & thinking it might be some other Boat said what was the name of the boat. She answered — the Missourian and eight persons were scalded to death and sixteen drowned. I do not know how I got out - but she wrapped my cloak round me and I ran home as fast as I could and was not seen by the family until I reached the piazza almost breathlefs. I could only say, O my son - my son Winthrop suspecting the cause—said my dear mother dont distrefs yourself I have heard all about it and there is no cause for your fears. What said I—the Milsourian? which was the first intimation that Mrs Godfrev had. She screamed most dreadfully & caught fast hold of Winthrop. He assured us that a gentleman from St. Louis had told him that he passed the boat immediately after the accident & that none of the cabin passengers were hurt. This relieved my mind - but Mrs G was in great distrefs and said it was impossible the boilers should burst without killing a great many. I beged her to be calm for that nothing was impossible with God. We remained in this state of suspence until the 10th inst when we rec^d a letter from dear Arthur saying by the great mercy of God Cap' Godfrey & himself were alive & uninjured. As I think it probable you have not heard the particulars—I will give you my dear children—an extract from his letter.

[Quotation from Arthur Gilman's letter omitted.]

When I reflect on the scene—and the astonishing preservance I am overwhelmed with gratitude and love. Never my dear children, let us forget this instance of Divine mercy. May it keep us all humble & prayerful. Before dear Arthur left us, there was a protracted meeting in this town, and you know his mind at times, has been seriously exercised. President Beecher¹ was here and became very much interested in your dear brother. He dined with us almost every day. And O it was a comfort to my heart to observe Arthur, trying to seek his company alone. They conversed together with freedom, and before the President left us the dear child who had been seeking—with strong cries for mercy—obtained I trust that better part, that can never be taken from him. O my dear Eliza—I shall never forget the evening before he left us — when after M^{rs} G — M^{rs} M — and myself had retired—I heard Capt Godfrey say—my dear friends, this is the last evening we shall be together—we know not that we ever shall meet again—do let us give ourselves to God—by prayer. They then all four, kneeled down, and each by prayer - before they arose gave themselves to God. Yes Eliza—I laid in my bed and heard my two children pray to their covenant keeping God. O what mercies are mixed with Afflictions. It has always been my prayer that my children might become pillars in the church. Lord keep them as in the hollow of thine hand. Now my dear daughter—I beg that you will burn this letter or put it where no eye can see it but yourself - your dear husband - Brother and sister. We can't expect all to feel as those who are deeply interested. Mrs Manning begs to be remembered to you

¹ Lyman Beecher, D.D., president of Lane Theological Seminary, Cincinnati, and father of Henry Ward Beecher and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe.

& says she feels as if she was acquainted with you. Love to dear Martin—Serena—& the Doc^r.

From your affectionate mother.

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Mrs. Gilman, accompanied by her son, Winthrop, went to New York in the early summer of 1834. Another granddaughter, Susan Hoffman Gilman, daughter of Dr. C. R. Gilman, was born on June 21st of that year. Shortly afterward, Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman received the sad news of the death of her son Arthur of the same fever prevalent all along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, which had proved fatal to so many of the family. Arthur Gilman died at Alton, July 26, 1834, aged twenty-eight.

The following letter from a family friend has been copied entire (although somewhat distressing) as it shows so vividly the conditions that existed in a sickroom before the advent of the trained nurse, and also the kindness of the small community, especially the men, who seemed to be called on frequently to act as nurses.

Rev. E. Jenney to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, New York.

Upper Alton July 22 1834

Mrs Gilman.

I promised to nurse Arthur in case he should be sick this summer; but I did hope not to be called upon to redeem the pledge. The Lord's ways, however, are not as ours; & last evening I learnt that he was ill, & have just returned from the lower village with him. He is now in the room over M^r Long's store—a large airy room, which I have occupied, in part for 2 or 3 weeks. Be assured that he will not suffer for the want of care: for no efforts shall be spared to restore him to health, & render him comfortable & happy while confined.

23^d 10 Oclock, A. M. Arthur is doing well, little or no fever on him now. His medicines operate favorably; & though we pretend not to know the councils of the Most High—we hope that he will recover & long be spared, a

blefsing to his friends & to the world. I will here mention that Mrs Willard & other ladies are very kind. They prepare for him tea & sage & gruel & arrow root, & other things which he needs. He has lemons & tamarinds, & indeed almost every little delicacy which could be procured in any part of the country. And though his mother & his sister be not with him—a brother is most of the time by his bed-side, & there are many who feel almost a brother's interest in his welfare. Think not that he suffers, because he is not in a house occupied by a family. I have been sick under the most favorable circumstances. surrounded by friends, & furnished with every luxury which renders sickness less distressing; & therefore I speak from experience when I say, that your dear son could hardly have anything additional to render his present confinement as comfortable as the nature of his dis-

ease (bilious fever) will permit him to be.

4 P. M. This forenoon I was absent from the room for two hours. I attended a religious meeting, but not without committing my patient to the charge of others. On my return he appeared to prize my poor attentions so much that I promised not to leave him again, unnecefsarily, till he shall be restored to comparative health again or else be called away beyond the reach of suffering and sorrow. A few hours since he attempted to walk alone to a chair about 20 feet distant. I saw him when he had got half way, & ran to his assistance. As soon as he was seated he fainted; & M' Long & others were with me in a minute, & carried him back to his bed. That effort which we could not prevent—it was made so hastily. was very exhausting. Probably it will not be a serious injury to him. Such is our hope. Still we can but fear that it will hasten the rise of the fever & render it more violent. If so—the consequences may be very unhappy: & the records of another day may tell of events which will send pain to many hearts. Oh that the Lord would spare you all the agony of learning that he whom you so tenderly love is dangerously sick, still more that his race is run thus early in life.

24th. ½ past 1 A M. For seven hours Arthur has been failing very rapidly. This change occurred all at

once, & we know no adequate cause for it. At half past 7 everything appeared favorable: but in 10 or 15 minutes from that time, he began to wander in mind & his case became alarming. Both physicians were called in, (Drs Long & Haskell) and every thing which skill & kindnefs could suggest has been done, from that hour, to retain him yet with us. One of the physicians, Benj, Mr Long, M' Bingham & myself are now attending upon him. We anxiously await the result of this sudden, but protracted change, & at times our fear that all our efforts will be in vain. That delirium—that restlefsness—that sinking of the entire system — these, we fear, are the presages of a speedy dissolution. Should they prove to be so, we trust his departing spirit will rise to the possession of that happiness which earth cannot impart & which can be known only when we shall be rendered capable of enjoying it—in heaven. Precius is the death of the saints. If Arthur be numbered among them—& ought we to doubt? then, before the shades of another night gather around us he may be ushered into all the light of a glorious immortality. Let this, however, be your consolation, if an event so sad to yourselves occurs that "the Lord reigns". His dealings with us are all ordered in wisdom & love. Far be it from Him to afflict willingly, or grieve the children of men. And if the terrible blow be struck home upon your hearts, can you not, my friends, oh, I know you can, & will, be comforted by the fact, that your heavenly Father hath done it, and that, in his Providence, he designs it shall work for good for yourselves & others. (Dr Long has been called away to visit another patient & Dr Haskell has come to remain during his absence).

3 A M. Arthur has just enquired, "As I so far gone as to be struck with death". The question was put with much apparent solicitude: but a negative answer quieted him. I availed myself of that lucid interval, to ask him if he put his trust in Jesus Christ as a Saviour & expected to be with him provided he should die tonight. His reply was to this effect—that Jesus Christ was his only hope, but that he felt not the confidence he desired. He complained, with evident feeling, of the engrossment of his mind with the business of the world, & of his ineffectual

endeavours to keep his thoughts upon the great subject which should now secure his attention & his efforts, more

than all others—the salvation of his soul.

25th 10 AM. Arthur is now perfectly rational, & there are symptoms which may be regarded as somewhat favorable. Medicine again produces its desired effect, which has not been the case, till a short time since, for more than 12 hours, notwithstanding 8 doses of Calomel, 15 or 20 grains each, -together with other medicines, mostly stimulants & tonics—some of them of a very powerful kind—have been given him.—A few minutes ago he requested me to pray with him. I enquired what he would ask at the hands of the Lord. His reply was, that I may be prepared to die: that my many & aggraveted sins may be forgiven through the merits of the Savior: that, if I must die, he will fit me for heaven: but that if it can be, he will yet grant me an oppertunity another oppertunity—to do good, & cultivate the Christian graces. This he said in nearly, if not exactly the words I have employed, & in a manner that shewed that he understood & felt it. (He made the same request of Mr Long, early this morning while I retired for an hour to rest.)

1/2 past 11 A. M. Arthur has had private conversation with his brother. He appears to have relinquished all hopes of recovery. Alas! we apprehend there is much reason for it; & are trying to discipline ourselves to the submission that says "Not our will, but thine, O Lord, be

done."

This morning he remarked to Mr Long, that he expected to be in eternity before night, or before another day. While I was standing near him, he uttered, in a whisper, the following short prayer. "O Lord, cut me not down, as a cumberer of the ground, but spare me that I may be useful in the world, through Jesus Christ, Amen". I conversed a little with, or rather talked to him. He appears anxious to live; but when he expresses this, it is in a way that indicates submifsion to the divine will, & it is almost invariably accompanied with the avowed purpose, if his petition be granted, to live more for the honor of

his Savior & the good of souls. He has said that he thought he gave his heart & his all to God last winter, but that his residence in New Orleans was a serious injury to his religious feelings. He now regrets that he did not imitate Winthrop's example, & come out before the world & take an open & decided stand on the Lord's side. Several times, however, he has told me that his trust is in Jesus Christ, yet he speaks tremblingly of his prospects of a coming world. But the Omniscent knoweth the heart & we can but think that he sees that in him which he himself has planted, & will nurture & perfect

unto eternal life.

8 P. M. For the last two hours Arthur has been rapidly sinking. A minute or two since, he appeared to be perfectly rational, & I put several questions, the answers to which must greatly alleviate the affliction with which the Lord may be about to visit—not only yourself—though none could feel it so keenly—but brothers & sisters & other friends. Do you feel more confidence in Jesus Christ as your Savior? "Oh Mr Jenny, I am so unworthy, my mind is so taken up with businefs! This morning I thought I gave myself entirely up to God." Do you not that you can do it now? "I know I can, & I do it." "The Lord Jesus is a precious Savior." "He is precious indeed." Are you resolved to be his in life & in death? "Yes, let the end be what it may, I am resolved to be his, - in life & in death, I am his." He was very emphatic, in his last expression, "In life & in death I am his."

10 P. M. This melancholly scene will soon close. Poor Arthur! Nay, we will not say so, for may we not hope that he is about to exchange vanity for reality—earth & all its shadows for the substantial glories of the heavenly world. Benjamin, Capt. Godfrey, Mr Long, both physicians, myself & several others, have been, for hours, endeavoring to wrest him from the grasp of death; for such seems to be the end of our efforts. We may succeed; but if we do, it be against all probability. Alas! my dear friend, we scarcely doubt but that his departure is at hand and, believing him to be a Christian, we seem almost to hear Jesus saying to his Father, "I will that he be with me where I am, that he may behold my glory

which thou hast given me."

J. 27th. 1 A M. (Sunday morning). About an hour & a half since we knelt—a little weeping company to present our prayers to God, for the descent of his grace on the bereaved mother, & brothers, & sisters of the dear, the loved Arthur, of whom it must now be said—He has gone, we trust, to a better world, & has begun to tune his voice to the praises of the celestial quoir. "Blefsings & honor & glory & power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne & unto the Lamb, for ever & ever, amen."

My heart bleeds when I think of the agony which this intelligence coming in this letter will cause you. But have you not? you have learnt that the Lord is true to his word, & found by happy experience, that all things, even the most distrefsing events of the present life, work together for the good of his people. Would that I were permitted to be with you, mingle my tears with yours, as I did on a similar occasion, lefs than one year ago. But that cannot be; & I must content myself with commending you, & all the members of your bereaved family, to God & to the word of his grace, which is able to sustain you & impart the consolations which are enjoyed by them who are sanctified.

You have the sympathies of many hearts in both these villages. Arthur was esteemed by all who knew him, & greatly loved by them who knew him intimately. Never has a death created a greater sensation among us, & never has so large a procession followed the remains of any

one to the grave.

I might dwell much more at length on this mournful subject; but it is needlefs. Besides, it is now past midnight, & my strength has recently been about exhausted by constant attentions upon your Son. In this, however, I have had a full & precious reward—that I contributed a little to his happinefs while the Lord permitted him to be with me.

A kind remembrance to all the members of your family.

May the God of heaven support & bless you.

Yr friend in affliction

E Jenney.

Winthrop S. Gilman to Dr. C. R. Gilman, Stratford, Conn.

Saturday ev^g ½ past 9— 9 Aug^t 1834

Dear Brother,

Oh! how can I tell you the dreadful news; but it is the Lord who has taken away from us our beloved Arthur & may the affliction be sanctified to us who remain. By a letter just rec'd from Vairin & Reel Saint Louis, I am informd that Arthur died of bilious fever on Saturday 26 July, only 5 days after he had written to me in perfect health—they state no particulars, but say they presume I will at once hear from Benjamin on the subject—

Mother is very much overcome - hasten back with all

possible speed—

Your affec^e brother

Winthrop

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to E. Jenney, Lower Alton, Ill.

My dear friend. At this moment of deep and heartrending Affliction — I know not whether I can sufficiently collect my poor agonized thoughts to write you - still I will not appear ungrateful and therefore hasten to thank you and all the dear friends at Alton for your unwearied and christian attention to my precious departed child. And is my own Arthur gone forever? Is the delight of my eyes torn from me with a stroke? Shall I never again hear that pleasant voice that consoled & comforted me? O yes—he is gone—and the places that once knew him will know him no more forever. O I know it is the Lord. let him do what seemeth him good. I would prostrate myself in the dust and cry Tho' He slay me yet will I trust in him. He has been with me in past seasons of trial—has led me through deep waters—and has been my supporter-my comforter-my All. And shall I now cast aside my confidence? O no. I will still trust Him. I will cling to his precious promises—I will hope in his Mercy. But there are moments when nature will

prevail. The feelings of the Mother cannot be restrained. And the remembrance of my irreparable lofs bears upon my heart with an overwhelming power. He was the comfort of my heart and after his beloved Father was removed from me I seemed to lean on him. Perhaps too much—and therefore God has seen fit to take him also. But I praise him for his mercies—for surely goodness and mercy have been mingled with this bitter cup. He was surrounded during his last illness by kind and tender friends who watched over him with the deepest solicitude, he had every comfort furnished which the nature of the disease would allow—the voice of fervent prayer ascended to the throne of mercy in his behalf — and above all he was enabled to give consolotary evidences of a renewed heart—to commit his departing spirit into the hands of his Saviour — saving He is mine — and I am his. Surely my God I thank thee for these thy mercies. sanctify the Affliction to the spiritual good of each member of my family and to all the dear friends. To you my dear sir—who have felt the keenest sorrow and are acquainted with grief - I need make no apology for this letter. May your life, long be preserved a blefsing in the world. May you have the pleasure of seeing the work of the Lord prosper in your hands. And whenever God in his Providence shall call you - may you have many souls as seals of your ministry—and crowns of rejoicing—in the day of the Lord.

From your unworthy but deeply afflicted friend

H Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN became engaged to his future wife, Abia Swift Lippincott, at Carrollton, Ill., where her father was in charge of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Thomas Lippincott entered the ministry in 1828 and was stationed at many of the new settlements of the state. The "mother" of this letter was Mr. LIPPINCOTT's third wife, Catherine Wyley Leggett.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to ABIA S. LIPPINCOTT, Carrollton, Ill.

Lower Alton Wednesday ev^{eg}. 17 Septr 1834

In commencing a correspondence with you, my dearest Abiah, I cannot but wish that I possessed that enviable faculty of writing always in a pleasing & agreable style; for it is my earnest desire that as we become more & more intimately acquainted with each other, we may have continued reason to rejoice in the choice which we have made—I do not doubt that I shall have good reason to do so, and I shall endeavour, my beloved, that the favourable opinion you have formed of me may be strengthened & confirmed as our intercourse becomes nearer & more dear.—

I am aware that many young persons during Courtship put on the most agreable possible behaviour, which in consequence of its not proceeding from a rational & tender attachment, is ere long put off again with as great ease as it was assumed & one foible & another are gradually discovered by the lovers. Our attachment, is of a very different character from this, for it is based on high esteem which has been continually increasing as we have learned more of each other, and under whatever circumstances it may please Providence hereafter to place us, I doubt not we shall ever prove a comfort & a blessing to each other. The morning I left Carrollton I thought of you & your sleeples night—I hope you did not take cold during our walk, & that you did not go to Jacksonville as you must then have had a ride in the rain—I wish that it were so that I could enjoy the pleasure of seeing you frequently, and that with you, dearest, I could often take so agreable a walk as the one (only one) we had together.1

M^r Ellet was in town to day & tells me his wife is quite sick with the fever—M^{rs} Manning is unwell, slight fever, M^r M recovered. I found M^r Fuller here looking badly enough—he did see Mifs Fowler & tells me she nursed him a little while sick—I told him I should not have thought he would have gone courting with his old straw hat on. I have been so busy since I arrived that I have

¹ Mr. GILMAN proposed to his wife while they were on this walk.

not had time to learn from him how he was pleased with her.

No one here, except my brother, appears to have the least idea that I may be engaged, nor do I wish it known, as in so small a place a report flies to all ears at once & curiosity is ever on the watch—for this reason I shall enclose my letters in an envelope to your father & hope you will send yours enclosed to Godfrey, Gilman & Co in the same way. I have conversed with my brother in regard to the time of our union: he expects to be absent in November and an earlier date than that would not be proper under my circumstances; so that if I can secure your consent my wishes would prompt me to be married early in December. On 1 January G G & Co take an account of all their stock of goods which usually occupies 7 or 8 days very close application, after which time our business season being mostly over, my time is not nearly as much occupied, so that, my dearest, if circumstances prevent our union in December I must certainly ask your hand in January. In regard to your visit here—it would give me, you know, the greatest pleasure; but should you not think best for me to bring you down, I shall certainly take every opportunity to see you that is possible. Give my kindest regards to your dear parents & tell me what they say - I want to know your mothers views about time &c, for I shall certainly deem them correct, provided they do not delay us too long. Our new goods have not arrived — when they do I shall be very busy. Write to me as early as possible—I shall watch the mail eagerly. I commend you frequently to our heavenly father—Believe me, my darling

Your own Winthrop S Gilman.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to ABIA S. LIPPINCOTT, Carrollton, Ill.

Lower Alton 24 Sept: 1834

My dear Abiah,

It was with no ordinary feeling of delight that I this morning perused your kind & agreeable letter of Monday.

Each day as I become more & more habituated to the idea of ere long being united to you in the bonds of the nearest & dearest of all connections, I am more & more happy. I fear my gratitude is not called forth in an equal proportion to the blessings I receive. Oh. that the great end of our lives (to serve God) may be continually kept in view, then we shall be truly happy.

I was surprised a little to learn that Mr Alexander was to be married so soon. Did the idea occur to you at whose wedding you may next be present? When will Mr A come to Alton? I do sincerely hope that you will not let any thing prevent your accepting his invitation. went to Edwardsville vesterday, by the way of Mr Ellets, where I found Laura sick in bed—she had almost recovered from her former slight attack, but in consequence of exerting herself too much she was taken with a chill & fever—they were expecting Mr & Mrs Bailey from Saint Louis that day. I told Mrs E that you were still talking of paying her a visit—she said she would be very glad to see you — Should you come down with Mr A — you would of course I suppose spend a day or two with her — And now, my dearest, allow me to urge you to accept the invitation of the newly married pair, even should your stay be but a short one.

M^r Jenney told me he supposed it useless for him to ask me to go to Carrollton with him tomorrow: my feelings prompt me to fly there as quick as possible, for I long to see you, — but I cannot do it — my time is completely occupied here & I have just heard of the arrival of a Steamboat at Saint Louis which I expect is laden with our goods. I think a little recreation is necessary for your health after spending so much time with the sick &c-remember you must take care of this now on my account as well as your own, therefore every precaution that you take to preserve it, you may consider as so much done for one whose delight shall ever be to make you happy. December — I rejoice to think that December, if our lives are spared will not pass away without witnessing our union: the day is for you to fix, only do not let it be in the very last days of the month - more of this however when we meet, which will, I trust, be soon. Mr & Mrs Manning have just removed to my house — Mrs M was

sick this morning in consequence of too great exertion—She is able to be about however & tomorrow I expect my brother & myself will take up quarters with them. It is pleasant again to make the exchange from boarding at the tavern to the quiet of a private house, but how much pleasanter would it be, were she in whom I am most deeply interested, there also, ready to melt with a smile and to share "mirth or sorrow" with me.

Our responsibilities as you say are great; I pray God he will grant us grace to fill as we should, whatever station we may be placed in. Whatever I need, dearest, in a wife, I am sensible I do not deserve one so good as you—do not tremble at the idea of responsibility, trusting in our "strong hold" through Christ all shall be well. I hope I may prove to you under all circumstances, a kind, attentive, affectionate & feeling friend. It has been said by one who well knew the human heart, that by constant endeavours to render each other happy the married

pair mutually secure their own enjoyment.

It seems a good while to wait for an answer to my letter by course of mail, cannot you send your letter earlier — Mr Ryder, I expect will be down in a day or two or someone else who would willingly take a package for the firm—it is hardly necessary to consign my letters in this way however, as I shall attend the arrival of the mails myself. In order that I may hear from you as frequently as possible I shall probably write again very soon—If it is but a short letter do write; you would do so if you knew how great the pleasure I derive from hearing of you. I did certainly expect a letter by the mail & feel thankful you were so considerate as to write; your letter needed no apology. I shall look the more eagerly for your next as I hope it will tell me when we are to meet—if not I will come to Carrollton so soon as I can with any convenience leave Alton 48 hours—My brother reciprocates your remembrances—It is now late at night & I am keeping the boys up at the store—so farewell for the present - With my best regards to your parents, a kiss for your favourite little pet the babe; & the assurance of an ardent affection for yourself I am

Your attached Winthrop S Gilman

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York.

Lower Alton 16 October 1834

Dear Doctor,

I received your kind letter of 20 Septem: a few days ago and should have answered it at once, but I have been so busy as to render it almost impossible. I forwarded to Maa (12' inst) a draft on Am H Mifs So New York endorsed to her order for 100\$, & since the receipt of your letter. I for a time felt entirely at a lofs what to do, as at present I have no right to take funds from G G & Co as my account with them now exceeds 2000\$, which I have taken out of my part of the profits. I have old debts to more than this amount yet due me which are in train of collection. I would not mind all this however but we are not receiving more money than will just take up our notes & hardly that, having about \$10,000 to pay next month. Under the circumstances I am unable to give you the assistance you ask, which I assure you, gives me much pain, for I would gladly & cheerfully send you the money if it was in my power. You may, I think, if my life is spared, calculate with certainty on 300\$ per anum from Alton - I think you have received about this sum the past year & I now annex my note to your order for 150\$ payable 1 June 1835 at U S Bank, which I have had entered with G G & Co's notes & which will positively be met at that date—I have thought it possible you might thro' some of your friends get this discounted, & during the summer early if possible, at any rate during the summer, you may calculate on 150\$ more, but beyond this sum I do not see at present how I can help you, & meet the other current expenses which I shall be obliged to do, but should it still be impossible for you to get along without more I will accept your draft at 4 mos, or send you another note at 4 mos for 150\$ more. Our business is excellent; the class of customers now looking to Alton for supplies is much better than formerly - I am now so well acquainted & our supply of goods is so complete that we get good men of capital to trade with us. Our real Estate here since I turned it in to G G & Co, has improved

in value (estimating it at present rates) some 15,000 to 20,000\$ — The prospects for Alton never were so good as at present & its growth is a healthy one as it only keeps pace with the country back, the resources of which are developing with the greatest rapidity. The health here is very good - Ben & myself are so used to being at the store till '11 at night that we find 6 hours sleep quite sufficient for us - our hurry however is now I hope over as our goods are marked & we have plenty of help to keep up with our Sales. Our business affairs please to yourself as I do not wish particulars known. You are no doubt a little surprised that I am to be married here; I shall have I think a truly lovely wife, - a young lady of excellent disposition, good person, sound mind & feeling heart - I mean what I say - it is all true, & every day that I learn more of her, I love her better - I can with a grateful heart to God for his many mercies, crave his blessing on our union; he sees the heart & knows the motives that actuate us all. I firmly believe we shall be happy - I know we shall in proportion as we serve him. I have written to Mr Bradhurst introducing Dr W A Robertson of this place to him - Dr R goes on to N York about 1 Jay to buy sugar &c & has means, & I think Mr B will find him a good customer — I also write Mr Bradhurst today with a small order for Drugs &c to come out at once, so I hope he will be in a good humour with you— Write me often how you get on &c &c-I have just received a short but kind letter from Martin acknowledging receipt of mine to him. By last mail Maa's journal arrived which afforded us a great treat—

Tell Martin the Old Samos takes well with the Darkey at 75c in barrels. Some say it is the best wine they ever tasted—The casks were not very good & one leaked out entirely going to N Orleans & several others have leaked very much; had it not been for this we should make a

good deal on it.

Give my love to Maa, Eliza Serena & Martin & Kifs the numerous little pets for me, also love to the Children when Maa writes.

In haste as usual Your affece brother WSG.

Winthrop S. Gilman to Abia S. Lippincott, Carrollton, Ill.

Lower Alton 2 Decem: 1834

Dearest Abiah,

I cannot allow the mail to go up without taking with it my thanks for your very kind letter of 28 ulto, altho' I have but a moment to write.

M^r Alexander will probably go to Carrollton tomorrow & we shall have the pleasure of his company on Thursday evening-my brother & myself expect to reach Cumming's tomorrow evening & I shall promise myself the happiness of being with my own love soon after dinner on the fourth—Mrs Manning has at last engaged a girl to live with her & all things will be in readiness for our reception at the White house whenever we please to go there. I feel as on the verge of the happiest era of my life; not a little of this happiness proceeds from the most reasonable consideration that the step I am about to make is taken with a full dependence on the blefsing of our heavenly parent. Dearest-may we together humbly walk thro' life, looking continually to the joy that is set before us - & may God in his infinite mercy grant that we may ever be his own dear children, free'd from sin by the blood of the Lamb -

Give my most affectionate regards to your parents &

believe me most sincerely yours

W S Gilman

P. S. I have sent to St Louis for what your mother wanted, but fear it will not get up in time—but presume it is of but little consequence.

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This romance ended in a happy marriage on December 4, 1834, and Mr. Gilman and his wife went to Alton, where for the first few months they boarded in Mr. Gilman's own house in Lower Alton, with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Manning. Mrs. Martin Hoffman's first

daughter, Emily, was born December 28th, of the same year.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, New

York.

Lower Alton 15 January 1835

My dear Mother, Your journal No 7, to 17 Decemr: was received some days since & afforded us much gratification. I was sorry to hear Joseph Battell was so unwell, but hope ere this he has recovered—I have been so unfortunate as not to receive the boxes of seeds sent by Aunt Battell, the boat on which they were shipped from St. Louis for this place did not deliver them & went back to New Orleans & I fear very much they are lost—Please give my best thanks to Aunt for them when you write & state this circumstance. We have been very much engaged of late, having packed about 1100 Hogs in 3 or 4 weeks past. The 1' January is the time that we annually take an account of stock on hand, but in consequence of a little revival in religion here, it was put off till a few days since & is now almost completed. The 1st Monday in Jany being the day appointed for fasting & prayer for the conversion of the World, was observed here, & many Christians began to feel that they ought to second their prayers by their efforts at home - the season was a very busy one & circumstances apparently adverse to the progrefs of the Kingdom of Christ amongst us-Mr Baldwin was sent for to preach for us every evening for the first few days of the New Year, but could not come. Mr Lippincott came down & Christians began to pray in earnest for the Holy Spirit feeling, I believe, more their entire dependance on God for the blessing than they have usually felt; many who had been carelefs & indifferent became thoughtful, & Christians found on conversing with the impenitent that the Holy Spirit had operated on their hearts; several were convicted & about 6 or 7 conversions we hope have taken place - among them Adam Terrell (in our store) & several other young men who you do not know. Before much attention was paid to the subject of religion,—the young mens prayer meeting (which had been discontinued in consequence of the inability of sev-

eral to attend it) was revived & at the second meeting the different young men agreed that during the week they would seriously urge the attention of their friends and neighbors to the subject of religion, & we already see the blessing which God has bestown in answer to our prayers seconded by these conversations. At the last young mens prayer meeting they resolved each to select one or more of the impenitent in the village, with whom to labour, & continue to urge the subject of the souls salvation—we hope it will result in good & know that we are entirely dependant on God, but yet will make efforts to turn men to righteousness. Benjamin has attended many of our meetings & I think feels increasing interest in all that is done, & I believe is satisfied that the course pursued by Christians is one well calculated to do great good. We have the most uncommon man in the church I ever saw a Mr Alexander (a merchant) from Carrollton, who besides being the most active christian I almost ever saw, is one of the most cheerful and agreeable companions in the World. He talks freely with everyone on the subject of religion, & with humility couples such untiring zeal, that his whole soul seems absorbed in the one grand object of advancing the Cause of Christ wherever he is, such a man is of course the means of doing as much good as a minister, nor is he lefs devoted than a missionarv.

I am very glad to hear M^r Miller has sent you ten bales cotton I hope you will let me know when it arrives & how much it brings. Alton is still improving rapidly & the business of the place increasing very fast. There have been nearly 4000 Hogs packed here this year & the quantity of produce shipped is immense. We have about 1400 barrels flour now in store to forward for milling in the interior, & have taken in this season about 7000 bushels wheat, & shall probably get several thousand more. Cap. Rider is building a large stone warehouse opposite Hankinson's. Our meetings are held in the Stone Church, which is a very comfortable building. It was my intention to have written to the Doctor long since, but have been very busily occupied, so that I have let too long a time slip without writing to you. Tell him Benjamin

has some hams for him which will be sent off before long & I hope they will prove good. We have sold all our pork, Lard and Hams at Alton payable in cash at prices which I think will pay us about 1000\$ for our trouble in taking it in. The prospect for business is very good the ensuing season, but we are not increasing our orders for goods much, preferring to do a safe business than to attempt to keep full pace with the demand. The Winter thus far has been remarkably pleasant. Mr Wm Hayden has been very ill but is now much better. Mrs Manning desires much love to you & Eliza. My wife will add a line by way of postscript to you, she is very well pleased with Alton but wants very much that you should be here with us. Give my kindest love to Martin. I have not heard from him for some time. I sent him a dft on P Hollingsworth Philada for 1000\$ some 7 weeks since which I hope he received. We are not like to get a Bank here! With great love to Eliza, Martin Serena & Doctor,, I am Your affectionate Son W S Gilman

M' North will probably go east in a week or two & I hope

will call to see you.

Though personally unacquainted, I have heard so much about you dear Mother through my husband, and others, that I feel already a daughters affection for you.

I dare say you all are wondering what kind of a wife Winthrop has, and picture something very different from the reality, for you must recollect I am a western girl. We do not expect to commence housekeeping untill next fall, when I sometimes think we may have the pleasure of your company, and we will endeavor by every means in our power to increase your happinefs and comfort thus insuring our own. Give my love to all my new connexions. I wish very much to see them.

Your affectionate Daughter Abiah S Gilman

[The following is appended to the preceding letters and is a copy of Mrs. Gilman's answer.]

I fully reciprocate the affection you express to your mother in a PS to your husbands letter—and can say with sincerity that I have long felt a mothers solicitude for your welfare and happinefs. No circumstance I afsure you would give me more pleasure than to visit

you—and be an inmate for a time in your interesting family. But this circumstance is known only to him who controls all events. But whether we meet here or not—let us live my dear in such a manner as to meet at last with the precious ones that have gone before us—to be forever with Jesus our crucified Saviour and Redeemer. My children who are in New York Join me in tender affection—and believe me my dear Abiah—your

sincerely attached Mother.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth and Jane Miller, Great Barrington, Mass.¹

New York Jany. 17, 1835

I doubt not, my dear children, that you will feel as much delighted as I felt when I perused the enclosed letter from your dear little brothers. I wrote your father soon after the receipt of the letter I received from him, the day you left us, and told him at the close of the letter that if my dear little grand-sons would write, nothing would give me more pleasure than to receive a letter from them. And I sincerely hoped they would write a letter to their poor Grand-ma. As their letter was unexpected it was doubly welcome. Do not destroy it but when you return, bring it with you.

Since I last wrote you, I have received a letter from your Uncle Winthrop. He appears to feel very happy and speaks of you both with much affection. The letter was written on Christmas Day, and he enclosed three dollars as a Christmas gift; one dollar for Elizabeth, one for Jane, and one for sugar-plumbs for the Doctor's little ones and Lin. Your two dollars you will find enclosed in this letter with your Uncle's love and best

wishes.

The next time you wish to write a letter, I think you had best both write to your little brothers, on one sheet. It will be the same as if you wrote your father, and perhaps more agreeable. Let them see, dear Jane, your best

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

writing. I should like to have you write a letter also to your Uncle Winthrop. Congratulate him on his marriage, and dont forget to send your love to your dear Uncle Benjamin who now resides at Alton. Remember their place of residence in Lower Alton. Your Aunt Eliza is very well and talks of dining with us tomorrow. The babe is perfectly well and I presume will be called Emily. Maria Hoffman has left us and Sarah Battell is making a visit to her brother. When Mrs. Myers leaves us Sarah will then make a visit here. Mr. P. R. Starr took tea with us this evening and says they are all well at home. Your poor Uncle Doc is confined to his bed with the Rhumatism. I walked up to see him this forenoon. Little Serena had gone to dine with her Cousin Frances who had a dinner party!! Your Aunt Eliza sends love.

Present my affectionate regards to the Mifses Kellogg and to our Cousin Sarah Starr. From your affectionate Grand-ma, H. Gilman.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to John Tillson, Hillsborough, Ill.

Lower Alton 24 February 1835

John Tillson Jr Esq: Hillsborough Dear Sir;

Your favour of 16 February communicating the proceedings of a meeting of eight of the Commissioners for opening Books of Subscription for the Stock of the State

Bank of Illinois, is at hand.

I notice that it is proposed to open Books at the points named on the 10 April & keep them open until the expiration of twenty days,—that the commissioners meet at Springfield on 11 May following, for the purpose, of paying over funds received & making such other arrangements as may be deemed necessary; to which I now give my assent. Will you have the goodness to forward me a form for opening books & let me know whether we are to deem the payment of that money sufficient authority for

placing a name on the books, or require his personal presence, letter of authority or power of attorney.

Very respectfully

Your Obt Syt

W S Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to her sons, Lower Alton, Ill.

New York Tuesday March 10th N° 13. 1835. This is the highest number, my dear son's — that I have ever written to absent friends, before meeting them. Martin has taken Nº 12 to the Office - and how many more must I write before I see you. It is an amusement to me to write a little every day—but sometimes I think my Journals are not worth the postage—at least so often. When Martin came home to dinner he told us his store had been full all day of the new Auctioneers—beging to come in partners with them—as they knew nothing of the businefs. But they told them they would have nothing to do with them. They have made an agreement with Mr Bleeker and bought his commission. Wednesday 11th. This morning the Doc rode down and vaccinated the baby and dined with us. Mr Starr's son is better and he thinks it will recover. I rejoice with the Parents and trust they feel gratitude to heaven, for this great mercy. The spring is now advancing and we think and talk about you my beloved children, very often. In your next I wish you would say something about Journeying this way and say when you probably will leave Alton. Thursday 12th. After breakfast Eliza sent for a carriage and we rode up to the Doc^r. He was delighted to see us and wanted I should pass the day with them - because he said his back was so stiff he could not go out. We have had very wet weather lately and he must have taken cold. It was refreshing to me — after so long a confinement — once more to take the air. What cause of gratitude have I for numberless mercies received. O that my spared life may be more devoted to God than ever yet it has been. Friday 13th. Martin sent you a paper today dear Benjⁿ which will give you information about the Auctioneers. Charles

Hoffman is the author of a Book entitled "A Winter in the West." He gave the Doc one and told him when an opportunity offered he would thank him to send it to his brother at Alton with his compliments. I have not read it—but it is spoken very highly of by Mr Walsh and many others, who are good Judges. Charles you know, is a cripple and has tried many ways to get along—and now he has began to publish a magazine — which is called the new Monthly Magazine. As he was so polite as to send you his book - had you not better subscribe for the Magazine. The first number is out and the Doc^r says he will send it to you. Charles is very anxious the Doc^r should occasionally furnish him with sketches from his own pen. The Doc^r told him he would if he would promise that it should not be known. Charles is to allow a compensation. Saturday 14th. My Rheumatism is dreadful—I can take no comfort in any position. I have had a hope the Doc would come down to day—that I might tell him he must do something for my relief. Martin has just come in and gave me a welcome letter from you dear Benjⁿ—dated 24th Ult. I am sure I can sympathize with and feel all your pains. I cant help wishing that I was with you so that I could do something for vour relief. Since I received your kind letter—it seems as if my pain had in a great measure subsided. You are both very kind to the Doc and I will do as you request for him. I hope he will now be able to pay every one he owes, and have something left to live upon. Your remarks respecting the quilt amused us exceedingly — they were so characteristick. Before this reaches you I presume the curiosity of all will be satisfied. Or I would tell Abia what the presents are. Martin and Eliza have gone to call on some of her relatives—that your sister has never seen. I hope they will soon be back—for the Mifses Pyne and Mr Luck are to dine here to day and I do not feel as if I could make myself very agreeable to them. Martin keeps my cotton money — one hundred dollars the Doc had—and on the 29th of Feby he took one hundred dollars for my board. Next week the little girls will be here with Mifs Kellogg—and their term bill will take one hundred & twenty or thirty more. Sunday 15th. Passed a dreadful night—Eliza sent for the Docr before breakfast and he sent me to bed in Colden's chamber-where is a fireplace-and no noise to excite me. Thursday 19th. Four days my dear son's, I have been confined in my bed-have taken a great deal of medicine—and had a large blister on my back—drefsed constantly with savin ointment - for the Rheumatism. The remedy was severe - but with the blefsing of God it has intirely removed the Rheumatism. I have a great opinion of Chandler's skill-and hope his life will be spared for great usefulness in the church and in the world. Old Mrs Pyne passed the day with Eliza—and I am not sorry that I could not come down. She is too fond of flattering people and I cannot bear it. While I was confined—I had the pleasure of receiving a newspaper each day from my dear sons at Alton. I believe my confinement would have been much more tedious, had it not been for those papers. There was scarce a word in them that I did not read. I am much pleased to hear that your town is improving so fast. Friday 20th. The Doc wished me to lend him the paper respecting your Bank. &c. He said he wanted to lend it to his friend Bronson - who wished for every information respecting Illinois - for he was going there this season. He told the Docr to advise you not to engage with any Engraver to do the bills of the Bank of Illinois till you have seen the Engraving of Rawdon Wright Hatch & Co. For they are the best here. Robert Ives passed last evening with Martin and Eliza. He brought a letter from Mrs Ives to Eliza—and a book of poems to her from Hope. Mrs Ives says she cannot bear the Idea of all communications being at an end between the family's. She wishes your sister to write her very particularly of herself and family. She says 'tis a long time since they heard from Benjⁿ and begs E to be very particular. She expresses great interest for the family, & says they all feel the same. Mr Ives has been for 14 months a great Invalide constant cough - and never goes out but in very fine weather. Moses 2 has a fine boy - 15

¹ Mr. Thomas P. Ives did not die until 1855.

² Moses Brown Ives married, in 1833, Anne Allen Dorr and had a son, Thomas P. Ives, who gave his yacht and his personal service to the country

months old. Charlotte has seven children & Mrs Ives says her hands are full. Robert has two sweet little daughters. Hope is confined constantly & her Physicians says she must not write. Robert told Eliza she had an ill turn Just before he left home. Saturday 21st. Eliza has Just received a Salem newspaper called the Land Mark—sent by your cousin Sam' P Robbins of Andover. It has in it a well written extract of a letter from his sister Jane of Marietta. I sent it to you this morning. The Docr was so well as to walk down here this morning. He rode down to Wall St and met Mr Farley. He asked him if he should send more goods to you soon. He told him he was packing a Box for Mr Hankinson—and if he had anything to send you & would send it this afternoon it would go safely. He sent you Winthrop The winter in the west and I sent Benjⁿ The Memoirs of Hannah More. I have read it and think you will all three be pleased with it. Particularly the 2d volume. Indeed it is all extremely interesting. I had no Idea she was a woman of such uncommon literary ecquirements and universal knowledge of men and things. Her intimate acquaintances were among the first great men in England. Mr Wilberforce was her most intimate friend. I took great pleasure in

in the War of the Rebellion. He married Elizabeth Cabot Motley, daughter of John Lothrop Motley, in 1865, became a lieutenant commander in the Navy and died while on leave in Europe. Elizabeth (Motley) Ives married (2) in 1876 Sir William Vernon Harcourt. Moses B. Ives had also a daughter, Hope Brown, who married Henry Grinnell Russell.

³ Charlotte R. Ives married, in 1821, Prof. William G. Goddard. The children who lived were: Charlotte Hope, who married, 1848, William Binney; William, who married, 1867, Mary Edith Jenckes; Thomas P. I., who married Anna E. Fearing and died s.p.; Elizabeth A., who married Dr. Thomas P. Shepard and died s.p.; Moses B. I., who married Elizabeth A. Swann, and died s.p.; Francis W., who married Elizabeth Cass Ledyard; Robert H. I., born 1737, married Rebekah B. Groesbeck.

4 Robert Hale Ives married in 1827, Harriet B. Amory. Their "little daughters" were: Elizabeth Amory, who married Prof. William Gammell, and Harriet Bowen who died in 1860, unmarried. Later Mr. Ives had a son, Robert Hale Ives, born in 1837, who died unmarried of wounds received at the Battle of Antietam in 1862.

⁵ Hope Brown Ives, daughter of Thomas P. Ives, Sr., died in 1837, unmarried.





From a silhouette owned by his granddaughter, Mrs. Howard C. Parsons (Edith B. Stevens), of Martin Hoffman and His Two Eldest Children Now York City

reading John Newton's letters. He appears to have been much attached to her. Sunday 22d. We have to day the equanoctial storm. No one goes to church but Martin & Colden. Joseph Battell passed the evening here but I did not go down-nor have I been in the parlour since this day week. Monday 23^d. This morning I came down to prayers, for the first time. I desire to be thankful to my great deliverer for restoring my health so as to enable me to take my usual exercise in the family. Bless the Lord O my soul. Tuesday 24th. Lindley has been quite sick two or three days. This morning Eliza sent for the Doc^r—who said he thought he was going to have the measles—he could see it in his eyes.

Wednesday 25th. Lindley is broken out thick with the measles. It has come out so well that we hope he will have them very lightly. A fire is made in Colden's chamber and the baby is kept there that it may not take them. Thursday 26th. Lindley is doing well and is well enough to play. Martin came home quite unwell. He has been on the wharf all day without dinner - selling Mahogany, and seems chilled through. We had to send this morning for the Doc^r for the chamber maid who was very sick. He is afraid she has the scarlet fever. Should that be the case, it will bring terror to all the family. Martin's sister—Mrs Livingston—arrived last night and they are to have a family party at the Docrs this evening to supper—not to tea. The Doc^r says he is under such obligations to the two Mr. Wotherspoons that he will invite them and their wives. Friday 27th. Martin and Eliza came home night before last before eleven. They say they had a very pleasant evening—a beautiful supper and every one appeared to enjoy themselves. Murray sent Serena his Piano. She has had it tuned, and they had fine musick. Charles Hoffman told Eliza that he had not had such a treet for many months. The Doc^{rs} voice was also in fine tune. Mrs James Wotherspoon playd sweetly but she does not sing. Saturday 28th. Last evening the Hoffmans Seaton's & Ogdon's all met Mrs Livingston at Mrs Lindley Hoffman's. Martin & E came home about eleven-after passing a very pleasant evening. I took a walk with E about four squares. The first time I have

been out for four weeks. I hope I am thankful to the great giver of all good for restoring my health, so that I have the prospect of assembling with the people in the house of prayer, tomorrow. Sunday 29th. I went to church all day - rode in a carriage which cost me one dollar. But I had rather spend a dollar in this way than for any thing I may want. I have been deprived of this privilege four weeks and it seemed good to be there. The weather will soon be so pleasant that I can walk which will be more agreeable and less expensive. Monday 30th. Mrs and the two Mils Livingstons and Mary Hoffman dined here and went home before tea. I recollect dear Winthrop, that your Grandpaa Robbins—at times ever since I can remember, had that numbnefs in his arm and leg. He made great use of a flesh brush every night & morning and always found benefit. Tuesday 31st. They have a family party this evening at M' Henry Ogden's. Joseph Battell took tea with us—and after tea Martin & Eliza went at 8 oclock. Joseph brought me an excellent letter from cousin Sally. Wednesday April 1st. The family party are to meet here tomorrow eveg 23 in number. Eliza has sent for Sam the waiter—told him the bill of fare—and he purchases and cooks—sets the table and waits—without any trouble to her. Thursday 2d. I shall be like a sparrow alone upon the house top. I have walked down to Nasau St, & bought the Memoirs of Doc^r Hyde & intend to have a fire in the 3d story and sit there until they are all gone. I was sent for after I came home to go into the parlour. And to my surprise I found M^r North. It affected me exceedingly to see him. He remained an hour. Said he was going tomorrow to Weathersfield—should return here with his wife and family the week after next. We invited him to pass a day with us if possible when he returned with his wife. He said he would if they did not pass right on. I asked him a thousand questions and kept him as long as I could. Friday 3d. I saw none of the company last night — not even the Doc^r. For I occupied Colden's room until they were all gone. I was much interested in my book & it was the most pleasant evening I have passed for a long time. Doe' Hyde was at my fathers before I was married. Your

dear Uncle Samuel studied Divinity with him. I had the great satisfaction of hearing him preach last summer at Great Barrington and passed the evening with him — conversing very freely with him at the Mils Kelloggs. He was an interesting man to me — I loved him for he seemed like my father. His trials were very great—he buried 5 adult children — one or two were absent from home and the sad news was almost too much for his frail nature to bear. But his trust was in God who was his help and supporter in the furnace of affliction. If I can I will send you the book. Saturday 4th. Mr Northrop has not been here - neither have I heard from him. If you think best you can write to Mr Adams at Springfield or Zanesville and he will tell you what is best to be done. I left some of your dear Paa's papers—and letters from Mr. Adams in the small drawer in the Bureau in the bed room I slept in. Martin is going to the store and will take this to the Office. Remember me with great affection to Abia — M^r & Mrs Maning—Mr & Mrs Long Mr Willard and all friends. From your ever affectionate mother H G

P.S. When you have all read Hannah More I wish you would lend it to dear M^{rs} Long.

P.S. A letter has just arrived from Winthrop to the Doc^r. I long to open it but must wait till he comes.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

Louisville Saturday night 20 June 1835.

My darling Wife,

I am very glad to have an opportunity of quietly sitting down to write you a letter—I find my absence from you every day more & more irksome, & I think about you so constantly that I am getting into a hurry to get back & quite impatient at every little delay in my journey. As I informed you from St Louis & Chester, I did not get off in the Stage, but last Teusday left in the S B Wyoming. We had so many cabin passengers that the births were all full & several beds on the floor. A Mr Holt, merchant of St Louis, was the only person I was particularly acquainted with, but he approved a very agreeable

fellow passenger. Nothing interesting occurred on the trip; we had the misfortune to loose one passenger, a M^r Eldridge, by Cholera, but had no other cases on board. My businefs here would have detained me almost two hours, & had I been so fortunate as to have arrived two hours earlier than I did I might have taken todays packet for Cincinnati & probably been there before daylight tomorrow. I arrived here, just as I did at St Louis, in time to be too late & so am delayed until Monday when I hope to leave for Cincinnati from which place I expect to take

the Stage for Lancaster (Ohio) & Wheeling Va,

I found Mrs Buffum (Mrs Scarritts cousin) on board the Wyoming, & altho' I saw the likeness could not believe it was her, not Supposing She would be travelling this way, & I did not become known to her until today. She appeared in tolerably good spirits & has gone on in Company of a gentleman travelling to New Hampshire or I have just been interrupted by a tap Vermont. at my door, the servant informing me a gentleman wished to see me, when who should it be but Mr Wm Avis, who arrived today from New Orleans — he asked very particularly for Samuel & all friends & gave me an interesting account of Gov Poindexter (Jacksons inveterate enemy) who travelled in Same boat from N Orleans; I passed the hour very pleasantly. I would be very glad, could I be transported to Alton tonight & accompany little pet to meeting tomorrow & hear an animating discourse from M^r Graves. I trust he will be settled at Alton & do much good there.

The Hotel where I am staying is one of the most splendid in the West; The front is like one immense piaza supported by rich marbled columns, extending from the lower story to the top of the house, & the room in which I sleep is carpeted with Brussels carpeting, furnished with splendid Mahogany center table, pier table with white marble top, & white window curtains, yet I cant forget my little petty & I wish I was at home; so you must write very often, be very particular, & keep up a good heart until we meet again. I went off from Mr Hopkins without paying my bill, please ask Ben if he got my letter requesting he would send the money down

to him. I should have been very glad to have reached Cincinnati tomorrow in order to have heard M^r Beecher, as I never had that pleasure. I may not have an opportunity to write again until I reach Wheeling, but if I do not, hope to then.

Commending you to the care of our heavenly father & hoping you may always find great relief in drawing near to him, with affectionate remembrances to all friends,

I am, Your attached husband

Winthrop S Gilman

I have written to Ben by this mail.

read 15th Romans today

It being Sunday, I may not get an oppty paying postage of this, if I do not, please pay yr father.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

Wheeling, Va, 27 June 1835 (Saturday)

My dear Wife.

I wrote to Benjamin from Cincinnati a few hasty lines, from which place I proceeded per S Boat to Marietta where I arrived thursday night. I found my niece Jane Morgan, who is in delicate health, just about leaving Marietta as I arrived & I did not have the pleasure of seeing her. After finishing my business there I awaited the arrival of a Steamboat until 10 last night when one came by & I got on board & arrived here to day to dinner. My friends at Marietta who I had not seen for three years told me I had become very thin & would hardly believe I was in the enjoyment of usual health. We have had no more cholera & there seems to be none in this region of country. I have secured my seat in the Mail coach to leave this place on Monday morning for Baltimore & hope to reach Philada thursday evening next, and should I not be delayed there, to New York the next day. I feel very sensibly the truth of Solomon's words that a man that wandereth from his place, is like a bird from

¹ Jane (Woodbridge) Morgan died in May, 1858, leaving no children.

her nest, & as I have had leisure of late on board Steam boat to be so, I have been downright homesick, — so constantly do my thoughts bring me back to Alton. Several times I have checked myself smiling unconsciously, as I have been picturing in my imagination my little wife before me. I hope you enjoy yourself at Mr Ellets, but you must be very careful how & when you ride about, my darling, - My absence from you is more painful than I had expected it would be. I think of your uniform kindnefs, gentlenefs & goodnefs as I have seen it displayed in our short union & cannot help feeling that I have made but a poor return for so much affection. I am making a tedious trip of it, as I had hoped to spend the Sabbath much further on my journey. Mr Cheever who left Alton Thursday after me is about a day in advance of me already—we travelled together from Cincinnati to Marietta.

I have been buying goods here today & have several letters yet to write so I must bid my wife good bye. My next will probably be from New York if my health is spared. Shall write to Benjⁿ by this mail. I find Alton is in everybodys mouth & they make it out a great place. Hoping that by the unmerited goodness of our heavenly father we may soon again be permitted to meet each other, I am,

Your sincerely attached husband W S Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

New York 7 July 1835

My dear wife,

I wrote to Benjamin yesterday informing him of my safe arrival here on Saturday last in company with Captain Godfrey & I delayed writing to you in hopes I should have had the great pleasure of receiving one of your dearly prized letters yesterday, but it was not the case & I am daily & anxiously hoping to hear from you.

I received yesterday a letter from Ben dated one week after I left in which he says John Ellet told him you were well, but I want very much to learn it under your own hand & also how you make out there, whether you (like a good girl) keep your spirits up well & enjoy yourself as well as the nature of things will admit. At Wheeling, M^r Fuller arrived the evening before I left, but I did not see him; I am somewhat in hopes he has a letter for me from you, but as I am obliged to day to return to Philadelphia with Captain Godfrey, I may not receive it until the last of the week when I hope to return. When I arrived here I found my mother at Mr Hoffmans alone, Mr & Mrs H, having gone into Connecticut to spend the fourth of July—they returned yesterday—all very well but exceedingly disappointed in not seeing you with me. My brother the D^r whom I have been so busy I have not seen but once, still is troubled with the rheumatism altho' he can attend a little to practice—last Sabbath he went to

church the first time for some weeks.

We had the great pleasure of hearing President Beecher (our Prest Beecher) on Sunday preach the sermon on increased holiness in the church which your father heard & admired so much—it is a most excellent discourse & one that is calculated to tend to purify the fountain head in every Christian. I am writing before breakfast & little Lin has just come down & bid me good morning & after telling him I was writing to you he said, "Uncle Winty tell your wife I want to see her." He is a smart little fellow, but is very thin which I attribute in a great degree to too much care of him—he has just run up to me again & told me to tell my wife to come & see his papa & mama & Linney too. Since our folks know what has detained you, they say not a word in objection to my returning as soon as I possibly can, but this will not probably be possible with any convenience before about 5 August, as I have to go to Philada & Boston besides my stay here. My mother expects if her health is spared, which is now very good, to come out with Benjin & bring Elizabeth with her in the fall. Elizabeths father has an old Slave who was some years since with his family on a visit to my mother—this Slave he says he is desirous of setting free & offered to send her on to take care (as he says) of my mother & Elizabeth. Maa thinks perhaps it might be well for me to have her come to Alton to live with us, as she was formerly a good cook & washer. I do not know how she would answer, but possibly she might prove good help for us & I have half a mind to have them write to him to let her come to Alton.

I think of you a great deal with an earnest longing to see you & hope a few weeks will again bring us to the en-

joyment of each others society.

With my most affectionate regards to your parents I am Your tenderly attached husband W S Gilman Maa & Eliza send a great deal of love to you.

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Bill from Baldwin Gardiner, New York, to WINTHROP S. GILMAN.

Martin Hoffman Esq.	New York July 9th 1835	
(for Mrs Gilman)		
Importer of		
	Bot of Baldwin Gardiner	
Plated Ware		
Cutlery		
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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

Northampton, Maßachusetts

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Dear Wife. 14 July 1835. Altho' I have not received a line from you since I left Alton, I again take advantage of a little leisure to tell you where I am & what about. I returned to New York from Philada on the 11th inst spent the Sabbath there & vesterday evening left in the S Boat for Hartford in company with Cap Godfrey, who wished to visit this place, as he expects to send his daughter here to school. We arrived here this evening & leave at 4 in the morning for Boston where if no accident happens we should be at 6 in the evening. I am strongly in hopes then to have a letter from you, as I cannot but think you must have written by M^r Stone & I hope he may have arrived since I left New York. We had dates from Alton to 25th, (ten days after I left,) but no letter from you, which surprised me much as I expected one certainly. I have heard you are well however which is a comfort to me. Maa says you must take exercise regularly every day by walking, but not so as to fatigue yourself, she says you may depend on it you will be glad that you have done so when Septr comes. Martin's sister, Eliza & all here walk if possible (and in the street too) till two or three days previous. I do pray & hope earnestly my darling that your life & health will be spared & that we may have many happy days together. I am arranging our business with all the speed possible that I may return early, & think I shall leave N York on or before 5 August. Mother & Elizth Miller will expect to come out with Ben in the fall. This is the most lovely place I ever saw & I have been wishing you could be with me here that you might see the queen of all beautiful villages. I called to see your grand parents - Mr & Mrs Leggett 1 - saw Mrs L who looked very well indeed & told me Mr Leggett was in good health. I shall call there again - also to see your cousin Adeline, whom I have not yet seen. I have called hardly on any one, having only made two calls of no great length on my brother the Doctor. My health is very good & every one says I look in excellent health - think I have gained a little flesh. We had a fine fresh shad for supper tonight, the first I had tasted in nearly 9 years. Maa has selected some tea & table spoons for us which she has had marked A S G & they look very pretty—they are perfectly plain - shall attend to our furniture when I return to New York. You would be delighted with a trip thro' this Country & I long for the time to come when we may make the excursion together. My friends all want to see you exceedingly & ask a great many questions about you. By the time you receive this I trust your mother will be in good health; the house finished & it convenient for them again to have my darling wife with them. I wrote Ben a few days since requesting him & you to write me care I Stewart, Louisville, on 1 Augt which I hope you have done, or will do immediately on receipt of this letter, which please burn.

You are very often in my thoughts, my dear & I presume I shall not be ready to sit down at my leisure & my ease, until I do so by your side, which I hope may be ere

long.

Commending you to the care of our heavenly father I Your attached husband am

W S Gilman

it is night - please pay the postage, to vr father & give my love to him, yr mother, Mrs Etter & all friends. I go thro' Worcester in the Stage & may not be able to see Mr Ward & family.

¹ These were the parents of Mrs. Gilman's step-mother, Catherine Wyley Leggett. There was a large family connection of Van Antwerps, Beckleys, etc., with whom an intimacy continued for many years.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

Boston 16 July 1835

Dear Wife,

Altho' I wrote to you only two days since at Northampton, still I again take up my pen quite late at night merely to say your two letters of 19 & 29 inst both came to hand today—they were both postmarked 29 June, so I suppose either Isaac or Mr Bruner forgot your first letter. I am sorry to hear you are so troubled with the pain in your side, but hope for the best & that you will keep up a cheerful heart. am glad to see you take advantage of hours for retirement & trust you will reap advantages from them. Cap. Godfrey & myself passed last night at Worcester, & I spent the evening (tell Mrs Manning) with her parents who were very well. Sarah (her sister) continues in rather delicate health & I recommended her going to Illinois to spend the winter. They are very pleasantly situated & very politely urged me to stay a day or two which I should have been happy to have done had I had time. I find my business here will probably detain me here two or three days longer than I expected - shall expect however to leave N York at the time stated in my last. I have received today a very interesting letter from Benjⁿ which I shall probably answer in a day or two.

Ben says the way M^r Starr looked at you was a caution—he is a cousin of my mothers. I hope to see your

Cousin Adeline in a few days.

You tell me the time lags heavily with you & I can assure you that notwithstanding all my business it passes tardily with me. I so long to see you that I sometimes keep awake till very late, & sleep brings you to my presence again. Oh! that the time may soon come when we shall meet & I shall kiss away all those briny drops that threaten to put out your writing. With my kindest love to your parents & family & all friends M^r & M^{rs} Long M^r & M^{rs} Manning &c

Your attached husband

W S Gilman

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

W. S. Gilman Abiah S. Gilman

New York 22^d July 1835.

My dear Wife,

I arrived this morning from Boston & had the pleasure to find your kind & excellent letter of 5th inst here, which has afforded me great happiness. I am very sorry that you could not have heard oftener from me, but I assure you I have written as often as I could at all conveniently: I wrote to you about 8 days ago dated Northampton & about 5 days since from Boston. I read a great part of your letter to my mother & Sister who were delighted with it, & I felt quite proud of my darling pet. Maa gives a great deal of love to you & sincerely regrets she cannot be at Alton early in September. You must not mind what Ben says about my returning. Mother says, altho' it is painful for her to have me go so early, yet she wishes me to tell you that she freely gives me up to you, as she enters into all your feelings, remembering how she has felt under similar circumstances in days of vore. I have gone thro' my businefs, dearest, with more expedition, probably, than I ever did before, & can now give you the agreable intelligence that (providence permitting) I shall probably have the pleasure of being with you in two weeks after you receive this, as I promise myself the pleasure of turning my back on New York on Monday 2d August next. Shall probably be delayed on my return by business at Pittsburgh a little, but hope to reach Alton about the 20' August—say, a few days before or a few days after that time. I never was more urgently requested to stay a day longer at a place, than I was at Boston, but I left there the very first boat after finishing my businefs—shall do the same here, but as I have a great deal yet to accomplish, think I cannot leave before 2d August. I am most intensely desirous of seeing you & am counting the days, hoping we shall not be parted over

¹ Samples of script letters for marking.

4 weeks from today. I trust you keep up your spirits well - my brother the Doctor assures me it is important you should walk (if possible) regularly every day, but not so as to fatigue yourself—he says take a good long walk. Do dearest - you can both morning & evening at any rate take a walk up the lane past where the house is building back of your fathers & thro the woods or any place for exercise. The reason I write to Benjⁿ so often is that I am obliged to send him copies of bills or advise him in regard to some business—were it only a brotherly letter, he would fare much worse than you. I do not doubt, my love, we are more happy, much more happy than if you were mistrefs of the art of musick; my affection for you arises from the good qualities of your heart, & is as lasting & as warm as its feelings. Give my most affectionate regards to dear mother & father (it sounds odd for me to call them so) & kiss your sweet little sis for me. I have received a letter from Benjⁿ today, but have not time to answer it, shall probably do so tomorrow. Cap. Godfrey is still at the East & will probably not be here for some days. I shall be so much occupied that I shall not see much of my friends nor of your relatives—postpone long visits 'till we can make them together. My mother expects to come out with Benjamin in the fall & spend the winter with us. I shall probably build a small addition to our house as soon as I arrive at Alton. Help is very difficult to obtain here & I doubt whether I can procure a good girl of the age of which you Speak but will endeavour to do so. I have purchased over half of our goods, & shipped them. Shall have but little time to select any furniture, but will procure a work table, dinner & tea ware, (have spoons already—) & [torn] few other small articles, & attend to bringing out in my trunk the little things you want. Please tell Mrs Emerson, if you see her, that Mr Geo B Emerson has sent her an Accordeon (musical inst) by me, but as I have a small trunk, may have to put it in a box of goods. The printing on this sheet is a poor sample of some types I have. which are to be used with indellible ink for marking

¹ The accordion was invented in 1829, in Vienna and must have been a great novelty at this time.

cloathes. As I have some other writing to finish for this

mail must bid you good bye.

Commending you to the care of our indulgent father in heaven, & hoping your communion with him may ever be dear to you I am Your tenderly attached husband

W S Gilman.

All our family fend a great deal of love to you, & do feel (I think) a great affection for you.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

My dearest Abiah, New York 28th July 1835

I wrote to you 22d inst, since when I have no further letter from you, but am daily hoping for another. I am progressing with my business & expect still to leave by 2^d August, I am sorry to learn that it is sickly at Lower Alton, & sincerely hope it may not prove fatal to many everything tends to increase my anxiety to see you & be with you, & do all in my power to make you as comfortable as possible. Your last excellent letter I have read over & over again, & it has afforded me great pleasure. M' Starr has returned highly delighted with Alton & gives a very flattering account of you & of his kind reception at Mr & Mrs Ellets he says you are exactly the wife for me & that if he could find your counterpart of a suitable age for him, he would be glad to marry her tomorrow:—it pleased me to see he had so much discernment. Oh! my darling I want to see you amazingly, & you must be careful lest I kiss your very breath away when we meet. I have looked in the directory for Revd Mr Marcellus name, but it is not there, but there is a Rev^d M^r Marsellus, living very far up town, to whose house I went a few days since in hopes of seeing your cousin Adeline, but she was not there. I hope to go to Avenue D Nº 10. in accordance with the direction on the letter, before I leave: it is a great distance or should have gone before. I spent the evening at Mr Leggett's (Sr) and saw Edw^d Breath, who was well, also took tea & passed an evening with Mr Beckley with whose wife I was much pleased. as she reminded me of you, in the mildness of her ways. M^r B is partner in an Extension house here of whom I am buying some goods. He expects to visit the Western States this fall & thinks of leaving his wife at Alton to spend the winter while he travels south. Edw Breath says he may come out this fall. Your grandparents want to come, & I think probably may before very long. I have bought you a very plain, but easy setting Mahogany Rocking chair, also a work table, selected by mother also a set of Canton China for Dinner, & tea set of white china, gold rim's - bowls, knives & forks, Ewers & Basins & the gentleman of whom G G & Co buy crockery told me to select a pair pitchers for my wife (a present from him) which I did, plain white, with gold rims & roses. I think I shall buy chairs in Cincinnati. The tablecloths &c all purchased. as well as your bottle of Florida water. Please say to your mother that Mrs Oakley has been out of town. Mr Van antwerp thinks of settling in Alton in the hardware business—will probably be there by 1 October to view the place. Please cut off the other half sheet & send it to Benjⁿ by M^r Willard. Maa sends a great deal of love as well as all the family - remember me affectionately to all—with ten thousand kind & tender feelings for yourself I am your attached husband

W S Gilman

Also purchased an alabaster clock, pair of lamps candlesticks &c.

I have just had the pleasure to receive your affectionate letter of 13 July, but have not time to answer it by this mail. I sincerely regret your lonely situation, my dearest, but we are both aware that nothing but necessity could have parted us at this tme. You must now try to be as cheerful as possible, as I trust, an indulgent providence will permit us to meet in health & happiness a few days after you receive this. Shall attend to the purchase of Books your father wants. I was a little surprised to hear of Mr Hankinson's marriage, hope it may prove a happy one. I think I can procure our beds at Cincinnati, which I shall hope to do. My health is very good indeed, my only sickness since here, has been a complaint I never before have had, but you must not be alarmed it is only

homesickness — Your company would entirely restore me again.

In haste Yours W S Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

New York 1 August 1835.— My darling Wife. The time has nearly arrived when I hoped to set my face westward & I have succeeded in accomplishing a great deal of business, being entirely thro' our purchases, & having not more work to do than I could accomplish in a day—vet I regret to say I shall be detained here, I think until the 5th inst, as Captain Godfrey (who I expected here two days since has not yet arrived, unlefs he has come this morning) — & I have some business to arrange with him that will keep me here probably Monday & teusday next. I need not say to you that my anxiety to leave New York is very great—each day it increases. I want very much to be with you & render you as comfortable & happy as I possibly can. I had the pleasure of passing an evening at Mrs Oakleys where I saw three of our aunts, & I was told to say to mother that I was in a family where all talked at once & she would know whose it was. I have not yet had time to ride out to avenue D & fear I shall have to give up the idea of doing so. I am anxious to receive your next letter, but fear I shall leave before it reached here. Shall request your letters returned to me unopened. Oh! how happy I shall be when I can once again clasp my own dear darling wife in my arms—you need not be afraid of my not spending my time with you; it is in your company that it passes more agreeably than any where else & I intend to allow myself more leisure than I sometimes have done. I dont know but what you will be sorry to hear that we have purchased

¹ It was a queer habit of Winthrop S. Gilman to spell Tuesday invariably in this way. From a constant study of classical literature, his style became more and more elegant, he wrote easily and did a great deal of literary work, an extraordinary amount for a very absorbed banker, but this little idiosyncrasy staid by him to the end of his life.

a larger stock goods than usual, calculating on an increase of trade. You tell me your letters are carelefsly written, but I assure you my dearest, they are very excellent letters, & it gratifies me exceedingly to observe that an increase of practice in letter writing, enables you to put your thoughts on paper with more facility, & in a more pleasant agreeable way—no one need ever be ashamed of such letters as yours have been to me. My sister will send you by me a beautiful drefs for a little stranger, & I bring out the caps &c you wished. The Doctor still has the Rheumatism badly & thinks somewhat of taking a tour to Alton, in order to try whether travelling & a change of air will not afford some relief, & I should not be much surprised if he left here two weeks after me. Eliza is getting better of her fall from a gig & is able to come down to dinner. I have still considerable to do today & must therefore, with love to all friends, bid my darling good bye.

from your ever affectionate husband W S Gilman. I observe that we keep regular, at the same chapter, daily. yesterday 1st July I read 5th Ephesians Please tear off the half sheet & send it to Benjⁿ.

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About this time Dr. Gilman and Martin Hoffman visited the Great Lakes together. The former put the story of his adventures in book form and published the following year, 1836, *Life on the Lakes*.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN's eldest son, Arthur Gilman, was born September 8, 1835.

Mrs. Benj Ives Gilman to her sons, Lower Alton, Ill.

New York Saturday September 5th 1835. I have just sent a sheet to the Office my dear sons and now begin another. I rec^d a Cincinnati paper from you dear Winthrop this afternoon—dated 13th August. Where it has been all this time I cannot think. But I am glad to hear of your arrival thus far—and hope to hear better news from you very soon. I feel very anxious about the Doc^r—as by last accounts his health was by no means improved.

May the great Eternal watch over them. Sunday 6th. My dear son Chandler's birth day. We all thought much of him and his dear travelling companion. E hopes to have a letter soon. Mr Lindley H had the last — and they were then at Detroit uncertain how to proceed—as they had missed the regular conveyance. I went with Jane to Broome St church and heard two excellent sermons from Mr Adams. Eliza has just recd a letter from Martin saying they were still at Detroit. The Doct suffers dreadfully on acc of the piles and cannot ride. He says whether they will proceed or return home, is uncertain. My feelings on his account cannot be described. I give him to God - praying that he will order all things concerning him for his best good and for the glory of his name. Monday 7th. I walked by the Doers and the house looked so solitary that I could hardly keep from crying. Called to see Mrs James Wotherspoon & returned home. Mrs Lindley Hoffman's daughter Elizabeth is very sick and Doc^r Hoffman has called in Doc' Smith. Mifs Farguhar is not expected to live the day out. She has taken the sacrament and lays in a stupid state. Tuesday 8th. I recd a letter this day from you dear Winthrop dated 24th Ulto announcing your safe arrival in Alton. Let us my dear sons never forget the goodness of God to us all. I called to day with Eliza to see Mrs Lindley Hoffman. She says she was never so well before after her confinement. Her Infant weighs 21/2 pounds—but he has a wet nurse and they think it will live. Wednesday 9th. Eliza reed a letter from Martin dated at Detroit. The Doc he says is much better, and they were on the wing to Makinaw in a schooner called the white pidgeon. I rejoice to hear this and hope they will be able to reach Alton in good time. I wrote immediately to Serena, and told the good news. Thursday 10th. I am confined in the house all day with the Influenza which is very prevalent. Friday 11th. I went out with Eliza and bought some things for the girls. Some of their Barrington friends called on them. Mrs Nicholas-Judge Hoffman's daughter-dined and pafed the day with us. Saturday 12th. I rec^d a letter from you dear Winthrop—dated 31st Augt—saying that Esq^r Long was coming to visit his parents and would accompany

Elizabeth and myself to Alton. It is a dreadful disappointment to Eliza not to see Benjamin—but I suppose it is all for the best. Inclosed in your letter was a Bill on M^r Starr at 4 mo sight—for \$200. Sunday 13th. My cold is so bad I had to keep house all day. Lin was seized in the night with the croup. And was so bad, we had to send for Doc' Ludlow — who came at 12 o clock and again at 4—and bled him. He was relieved and soon began to mend. Eliza rec^d a letter from Martin dated at Makinaw. Both well. Monday 14th. Lindley is better and my cold is so bad that Eliza sent (unbeknown to me) for Doc^r Tuesday 15th. Doc' Hoit sent me a cough mixture which I took every two hours—all night—and found great relief. Tuesday 15th. This morning the waiter brought me a letter which I knew was from dear Benja and said a gentleman was below. Eliza went immediately down and found Esqr Long. She asked him if he had breakfasted and he had. She told him I had been confined to my room two days with the Influenza but would be down in the parlour at dinner and should then see him. He told her he should start at 4 o clock for Providence - on his way to New hampshire - and did not wish her to alter her dinner hour. But she replied that we should dine to day - at two o clock - and he must be there. He smiled & said he would come. So at one o clock he rang the bell and the servant thinking it was the Doc' told him to come up stairs. When he found himself in the nursery and saw me at the glass puting on my can be coloured as red as fire. But Eliza told him it was all right—she had heard so much of him that she felt as if he belonged to the family. And I instantly began to ask questions & talked so much that he soon forgot his embarrassment and looked as if he was at home. At two o clock we were called down to dinner - which consisted of a very fine roast goose - some elegant Oysters - egg plant - and a variety of vegetables and fruit. Some of the finest peaches I ever saw. He made a very hearty dinner but would not taste of the wine. After dinner, Eliza sung and playd on the piano and he seemed delighted. He asked her where those sweet sounds came from. He had touched the keys but could not tell

how they could make such sweet sounds.1 She opened the piano-took off the covers-and he examined it with care. His eyes sparkled and he said he believed never was any one so fond of musick—as himself. He remained until after three and then took leave saying he would write me a line saying at what time he would be here again. Eliza told him he must come with his trunk right to her house. And he promised to do so. Wednesday 10th. I began to make some preparations for my Journey to Alton. Making a quilt for myself to ride in. Lindley much better. Thursday 17th. Mr & Mrs Pyne — Mr & Mrs Edey—and Revd Thomas Pyne took tea and passed the evening with us. I did not go down. Friday 18th. This morning before 6 Samuel P Robbins arrived on his way to Marietta to visit his mother and friends before he departs for the Archepalago where he is going to pals his life. He has now taken his degree at Andover, and expects to be married to Mifs Martha Peirce of Enfield, Connecticut next spring previous to their departure. From her letters which I have perused, I should judge that she was every way calculated for the wife of a missionary. She appears to be as much engaged in the cause as he is and to have right motives and views of the whole field. I trust they will both be under the Divine direction and be instrumental in turning many souls to Christ. Samuel expects to remain with his friends three or four weeks and then he passes four months in riding through Ohio - Michigan - and Tennessee — as agent to the board of foreign Missions — to promote the cause by telling the wants and situation of the heathen and obtaining contributions. I really think he is more devoted to the cause of christ than any person

¹ Pianos were a new thing at this time. Mrs. Martin Hoffman and her sisters had always played on the harp in their girlhood. A later reference to a piano being sent in to Dr. Gilman's on the occasion of a musical party, makes one wonder whether the instrument used in New York then was the "portable grand" patented by Hawkins in Philadelphia in 1800. It was an upright and must have been very small and closed up like a cabinet.

² Son of Mrs. GILMAN's brother, Rev. Samuel P. Robbins, of Marietta. This Samuel P. Robbins was going to Burmah as a missionary.

I ever saw. After breakfast the door bell rang and the servant came up and told me that Mr Jenney was in the parlour. I went down and it was an affecting meeting. He told me he left his wife on board the steam boat and thought he would run up a few minutes to see us. Eliza came in and told him she should be much hurt if they did not make her house their home while they remained in the city. He said they expected to remain in the town until Monday and he would accept her invitation with thanks. He left us and returned in half an hour with his wife. In the mean time we got the front chamber ready for them and Eliza moved up in Winthrops chamber. Samuel will sleep in Colden's chamber and he will sleep at his brother Murrays. Saturday 19th. Mrs Jenney is extremely plain but appears to be one of the best women in the world. I hope they will settle near Alton for I think her society will be an acquisition to any place. Sunday 20th. As it has rained all night I am afraid to go out and so I remained at home all day. We found out that Mr Jenney was to preach this morning at Chatham St Chapel—so Eliza sent for a hack and took M^r Jenney and Jane to Chatham St and Samuel went with Mrs Jenney and Elizabeth to hear Docr McCauley. Eliza was much pleased with Mr Jenney and Mrs Jenney was much pleased with the Doctor. It was his communion sabbath and she was peculiarly gratified to commune with his church. In the evening Mr Starr called with Joseph Battell and passed a pleasant evening. Monday 21st. This morning at ten o clock our friends all left us. As Samuel does not enter on pay until after his visit at Marietta - and left Andover with only five dollars-I gave him six dollars which was all I had. I shall produce the Bill of Exchange on Mr Starr the next time I see him. You know dear Winthrop there is a ballance of the Cotton money in Martin's hands which I shall probably receive when he comes home. So that I shall have enough. Tuesday 22d At home all day busily employed in fixing for my contemplated Journey. Wednesday 23d Eliza recd a letter from Martin dated 7th inst at Mackinaw. They talked of visiting the picture rocks on Lake Superior. I really think this a very imprudent step—particularly for the Doc as he will be much exposed to the cold and to storms on the Lake. May a kind Providence shield them from every harm. Thursday 24th. I walked out with Eliza for the first time since my confinement with the Influenza. I gave Colden my bills on M' Starr and he sent me a check on Bank of New York for \$200. Ought he not to take out some for him self. Friday 25th. I was made happy this day my dear Winthrop in receiving a letter from you, dated 10th inst informing us of the birth of a fine son. This is an epoch in your life, that you will never forget. You are now a father. Great and important are the duties which you are responsible for. O may you both have grace given you to train it up in the way it should go. May its immortal soul be washed in the blood of a Crucified Redeemer. May its precious life be spared and fitted for usefulness in the church. I do not ask for riches—neither do I ask for it honour. But I do pray that it may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost and made fit hereafter to Join the saints in light. I have felt extremely anxious about dear Abiah — too much so. On account of her fall. How much better is our heavenly father to his sinful creatures—than their deserts. O for a strong and lively faith to take hold of the promises in the Gospel. Thursday October 1st. For a week past I have been engaged with a mantua maker—making clothes for the girls. I find I have to buy a great many articles of clothing for them both. They came from Barrington entirely destitute of many necessary things. I have received your letter dear Winthrop enclosing a fifty dollar bill. Just as we were at dinner Serena rode up to the door with her dear little children. She said it was so cold at Stratford, that she thought best to come to New

¹ Dr. Gilman and his first wife, Serena Hoffman, had eight children, only two of whom married. These were Robert Hale Gilman, born July 20, 1832, married in 1857, Caroline Pilcher, had six children, and died January S. 1901; and Susan Hoffman Gilman, born June 21, 1834, married in 1858, James Ludlum, had eight children and died October 15, 1894. Dr. Gilman married (2) in 1844, Hannah H. Marshall. They had three children, Daniel T. Gilman, born September 23, 1845, married in 1872, Mary Stewart, had two children, and died June 19, 1911; Emma C. Gilman, now living in Middletown, Conn.; and Helen L., who died s.p. Dr. Gilman died September 26, 1865, and his wife died September 30, 1891.

York and fix up her house and be ready for the Doc^r Eliza had written to her and invited her to stay here until he returned. I am rejoiced to see them all. They look perfectly well and happy. Friday 2d Eliza has recd a letter from Martin dated Sault de St Mary. I am much afraid they will not be here before I commence my Journey. Saturday 3d. I wonder, dear Benjamin, if you recollect that this is the anniversary of the day of your birth. May you live my dear son many many years and come out boldly in the cause of Christ and grow in grace. This evening. Mr Lindley Hoffman called and gave me a letter from Mr. Long. He tells me that Mrs Silver — Mrs Longs sister - will accompany us to Alton and they would probably be in NY the 16th inst. Sunday 4th. Eliza and I with the girls, went to Broome St and heard an admirable discourse from Mr Adams. Monday 5th. I have written to Mr Long and requested he would bring Mrs Silver to 83 Walker St. I told him that my sons had not yet returned from the west—and if it met his approbation I should be glad if he would calculate to be in N Y, so as to commence our Journey west on Monday the 19th inst. All unite in love to you both - & to dear Abiah with a kifs for my little darling.

From y' Mother

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman went to Alton in the winter of 1835-1836 to visit her new daughter-in-law.

Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to her children, New York.

L Alton, Decr 7th 1835

Your united letter, my very dear children, gave me more pleasure than I can express. I am rejoiced my son, that you have returned in safety to your anxious wife and friends—and that your health is restored. I am rejoiced also, to hear you acknowledge with gratitude to your divine preserver, his goodness to you, while absent from those you so tenderly love. May we all feel our obligations and be more anxious to devote our spared lives to his honour and glory. I regreted exceedingly,

not seeing vou before I left New York, for I felt a longing desire to hear you both talk of your Journey and relate your adventures. I often immagine to myself the whole family circle assembled at each other's fire side, listening to your anecdotes and making their remarks. May a kind Providence prolong our lives and grant us a happy meeting in his own good time. Tell dear Eliza, I have received her interesting Journal Nº 1 and most ardently hope she will continue to write in that way. Benjⁿ says it seems to bring him home. Poor child—he has been very unwell, ever since I have arrived at Alton. He says he has not felt well, for six months. I advised him to consult a physician. I am convinced myself from his looks, and some other appearances - that he has the Jaundice. His face is as yellow almost as an orange. He is extremely weak and no appetite. He has lost flesh astonishingly since I have been with him. He has not been able to go to the store for about a week. Doc' Edwards was at the store, and he consulted him and he has advised him to keep house for a week and given him Cooks Pills, Blue Pills and quinine pills — with aloes Rhubarb—and Jalap—and written directions—which he has strictly followed for nearly a week. To day I can see that he is not so yellow and I hope with the blefsing of heaven that he will recover his health. I think if my dear Serena knew with how much pleasure I read her part of the letter too — she would always add a little — if only a line—to all your letters. You can't think how much comfort I take in reading the particulars of the dear children, the Franklin stove—the little one—and everything else that concerns you all. I think you will find your stoves will save much fuel and be more comfortable than an open fire or grate. I wrote my dear Eliza soon after our arrival—and as soon as I received her Journal. I fully intended to have written you all long before this but as your brother had Just commenced keeping house and his things from New York Just arrived my whole time was occupied assisting Abiah, who cannot do much, on account of her very crying child. But he will soon be three months old and then we shall expect a change. I was quite astonished to hear you object to Abiah's calling her husband Mr Gilman. For my part I think it very correct. Why does not dear Serena call you Chandler. I recollect your uncle Isaac took your sister to task for calling her husband Martin and told her she ought to respect him enough to say Mr Hoffman. I shall enclose a three dollar bill in this - my dear son - and wish you would do me the favour to pay Mr Morse for next year's Observer and tell him to send it to Lower Alton, Ill. If you publish an account of your travels I hope you will send us one. We have been much pleased with the Log cabin. Abiah was reading the Hunter's vow — and I was amused with her remark to Winthrop—she said "while I was reading it I felt as if I should loose my breath." She says mother—give my love to the Docr—and tell him that my boy, is prettier than his. They all write in love to yourself and Serena. Tell Eliza I shall write to her next week. Love to all the children—not forgeting dear Jane. From your affectionate

Mother H G.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to her children, New York.

Lower Alton Jany 4th 1836

I wish you all my dear children, a happy new year. May you have a wish—to live nearer to God this year than you ever did before. May you all look back on the past year - and this year, dedicate yourselves afresh to the Lord and pray for strength to persevere in the ways of holinefs. You are all surrounded with temptations to stray from God. Nothing but fervent persevering prayer, will keep you from them. O keep near to a throne of grace. Our heavenly father, loves to hear his children cry to him for all that they need. And like as a father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth them that fear and love him. You all my beloved children, need a double portion of the Holy Spirit—to keep you near to him. O that he would grant it for his great name's sake. The inhabitants of this town have been - and still are - favoured with an outpouring of the spirit of God. Our pastor and officers of the church found in visiting the people that many were under serious impressions and some struggling under deep convictions of sin. It was thought best to send for some of the neighboring clergy and have a protracted meeting. It began yesterday week. The church was well filled and every one was solemn as Eternity. Christians of both sexes had separate rooms where they poured out their hearts to God for his holy spirit to descend upon us — and convict and convert the impenitent. I trust there were many wrestling Jacob's and prevailing Israel's in the place — who felt as Jacob did when he said I will not let thee go until thou blefs me. Blefsed be God — that he has stiled himself a prayer-hearing and a prayer answering God. He has, I humbly trust answered the prayers of his own children. Many have come forward who were labouring under convictions of sin — and taken their place on the anxious seat - for christians to beseech God to convert their hearts and give them strength to persevere in the ways of holinefs. And O my dear children—one and all—how do you think I felt when dear Elizabeth, who was sitting at my side - got up with a mild and firm countenance—and took her seat with others and gave herself to Jesus. It was an affecting Joyful sight. She told me the night before—that she was convinced there was no happiness in this world but in religion. That she loved to attend the prayer meetings and enjoy the company of christians, more than any other. She attends all the meetings - and O my dear Jane I have heard your sister, pour out her heart in prayer at the female prayer meeting. She has chosen that good part that can never be taken from her. And will you not my dear child, seek an interest in that Saviour — that is so precious to the heart of your sister. You are not too young to die — and while the door of mercy is open pray to the Lord that he would turn your heart to himself and grant you his holy spirit—to convict you of your sinfulness and convert you to himself. May he give you a longing desire after and interest in his love — and a spirit of persevering prayer that you may obtain the blefsing. I presume my dear son and daughter, that the account that I have given you will be more pleasing than any thing I could say. You both love the cause of your sayiour - and love to see his kingdom advancing, and his glory bursting forth. Mr North, whom you have seen, has been under deep convictions but determined to resist them - and harden his heart. Last evening after the meeting was over, he came to Winthrop - with a melting heart and eves filled with tears and sobed out-"I will give myself to Jesus. He beged that he would pray for him—and ask all christians to do the same. Said Winthrop—will you go to Mr Grave's? (for they two were in the church alone.) O yes said Mr North—I will go and tell him what a sinner I have been. They went - and before they left the house, he knelt down and solemnly gave himself to Jesus-with a determination in his strength to be his forever. Isaac Scarrit has also come out from the world and given himself to Christ. He gives striking evidence of being a meek follower of the blefsed Lamb. Many others whom you do not know are determined in the strength of Jesus—to be his forever. And may the Lord give them strength. This day you know is set apart by christians I believe, of all denominations - as a day of fasting and prayer, for the conversion of the world. It is a solemn time in this town. May the Lord hear the prayers—answer—and show mercy—and take the glory to himself. The family are all well, except Benjⁿ who is still troubled with his old complaints—though able to be about and attend the religious meetings. We have just heard by the St Louis paper - most awful news. That half of the city of NY is in ruins. That many of the most wealthy are made Bankrupts by fire. Do my dear son let us know who are the sufferers—& if yourself—L M H & Co, or any that we are particularly interested in - have felt the stroke. We do hope to hear this afternoon from your pen, or Eliza's, or dear Serena's further particulars of this distressing news. All send love to All. Our dear baby grows finely and I fear we love him too much. Kifs your dear ones & give dear Lin & Emily a kifs for Grandmaa. Tell Martin I thank him a thousand times for his very interesting letter—which he took pains to write while Irene—Joe—

¹ By this fire on December 16, 1835, 674 buildings and property valued at twenty millions, were destroyed.

and other company were in the next room I can only say it was Just like Martin. I long for Eliza's Journal. Pray for us my dear children & remember your mother.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Alton, Ill.

Springfield, 22^d Jany 1836

Dear Wife.

We arrived here safely to day to dinner having rode 20 miles this cold day, very comfortably — indeed we are so completely shelter'd by our thick clothing that cold cannot much effect us, except our faces. We had quite a pleasant ride the first day to Carlinville & I found my 2d overcoat burthensome so that I rode without it, got in before dark & had a good supper of hot buckwheat cakes & comfortable lodgings. We started early vesterday & encounter'd a severe snow storm which forced us to stop an hour or two about ten miles from Carlinville, where we ate a hearty dinner & started north again. Stopped the night at Row's Mill, where Mrs Javne & all stopped to warm when we went up — every thing looked so dirty that it was difficult to eat, but the house was tight & very warm. I called this evening at D J — all enquired for you. I find that father Lippincott left Springfield today about 2 hours after I arrived. I invited D' Javne & his family to make us a visit at Alton & he invited me to make his house my home when I came to Springfield. We expect to leave here tomorrow & spend the Sabbath about half way between this & Peoria. We shall probably leave our horses at Peoria & take the Stage there for Galena. I have thought a great deal about you & dear little Arthur since I left & wish I could tonight be with you in place of this uncomfortable place, but duty calls onward & I obey, hope I may be spared to meet you again in three

¹ Mrs. Jayne was the sister of Rev. Mr. Lippincott's second wife, Henrietta M. Slater, and the mother of Senator Lyman Trumbull's first wife. Mr. Trumbull was United States Senator from Illinois for eighteen years and was an intimate friend of Winthrop S. Gilman.

weeks, meantime & ever I commit you my darling to the kind providence that has always watched over us & am
Your attached husband
W S Gilman

P. S.

Please tear off the next page & give it to Benjⁿ—& remember me kindly to Dear Mother & Elizth.—Hope Maa has a ride to meeting next Sunday.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Alton, Ill.

Peoria (Wednesday) 27 Jany 1836

Darling Wife,

I wrote to you from Springfield giving an account of our journey that far, which I hope you have received. We left Springfield at 10 o clock & rode about 30 miles that day quite comfortably and stopped at a little log hut almost 5 miles from any Settlement, where we passed the Sabbath in reading Some tracts, thinking of Home, talking of benevolent projects, &c &c — the day was very mild & pleasant & I hope Maa had the pleasure of attending Church. I think very constantly about my two darling little petties & really feel as tho' it would be a luxury even to hear little Arthur sniffle a little. I am getting quite anxious to reach home again & shall hurry back as fast as possible. We are detained here two days in consequence of missing the Stage day, but shall probably start for Galena tomorrow in the Stage & if no Accident occurs hope to reach that place on Sunday next—I hope therefore to be in Alton on our return between the 11th & 10th February. We have not received any letter from Ben & I hope both he & you my dearest, will both write to me on 4th Feby directed to care Mather, Lamb & Co Springfield. Mr Kirkpatrick & Mr Brewster, (who were to have been our companions if we had gone up on Horseback) arrived here this morning. They enquired after us as they come along & one man who had seen us, asked them what we had been doing for we travelled faster than he ever saw men & that we must then be 70 miles ahead. It seems he supposed from our rapid gate that

we were fugitives from justice. The Tavern here is the most comfortable we have been at—the table is rather indifferent but the beds are excellent. Captain Godfrey seems inclined for me to turn in my acre, to the concern & he & I build two houses for our residency on Market Street directly back of the church. How would you like it? I would promise to build you a much larger house than Your present one, with a Kitchen on the Same floor & then we would be so near the Church that Maa would have no difficulty in going there. This would be much more convenient on many accounts, but I tell the Captain I must consult you about it. This is one of the most beautiful town sites I ever saw & quite a pretty town the buildings being in better taste than we generally see, the Court house when finished will be the handsomest I have seen in the State. The Country between this & Springfield is very beautiful, the prairies are much more rolling than they are further South & many beautiful groves, like clusters of Islands, arising in their midst. Please say to Benjamin that town lots on the two principal Streets here are from 30c to 50c per front foot, which as there is an abundance of room seems to me higher much, in proportion than at Alton.

Give a great deal of love from me, dearest, to Maa Lizzy & Benjamin & Kiss my darling little Arthur for his pappy & with ten thousand endearing remembrances for yourself believe me As ever Your tenderly attached husband W S Gilman

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Irene Battell to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York.1

Norfolk Thursday March 10th

My love and a thousand thanks to you, dear Doctor,

for your kind letter, and word in Maria's.

So you do miss me, and wish me back again. Don't you know I'm the most credulous of all women, even to a proverb? You must take care that you are not chargable for the robbing me of my wits—aye—of making a foolish, vain girl of me. Mama says, "how came you to

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

be such a favourite of Chandlers" I had not whispered such an acknowledgment to myself—how could I resist it now? "Why really, Mama, I'm a very clever girl and the Doctor appreciates—that is all"—Seriously, dear cousin, I was gratified beyond measure, to obtain such a proof of your remembrance and affection - and I am happier for it—for who is not, at such an assurance, from one they value, whose kind interest—is precious, as yours is to me? but you should not find fault with Eliza because she does not sing the same tunes that I did she cannot learn every thing—for Emily will have the "White Cockade", and Lin will have an "Indian Dance" and it is such an interruption to all practicing, that to learn all is more than any one deserves—besides she plays more of your favourites than any other personbegging Mrs Witherspoon's Pardon. I shall not fail to acknowledge my indebtedness to her, for keeping my songs in store for me, until I shall see you again-all benevolent song singers, keep upon their own ground she has shown herself to belong to that honourable class, and I cannot but give her my most hearty thanks - as I do not you for chiding her, but as I do, for wishing to hear any of my performances. I believe I sung my song out in New York. I have hardly tuned a note since I came home-the instrument does not suit-and the girls wont accompany me - and it is lonesome singing alone — and I wish for other days, almost — I would not be wicked, and wish vainly—but I do remember with so much pleasure, some of the hours that we have sung together. I would fain wish more like them may be in store for me—for the delightful family parties you speak of, I would like of all things to be an appendage—as that may not be, I can only hope for your sake, they are as pleasant as those I wot of -but dont get high, as you did at "Murrays"—or expose Eliza, as you did me at "brother Lin's"—by requesting her to sing "Goosey goosy gander" after supper!

How are your babies now a days? and how are Cousin Serena's eyes? I wish in my heart they may be better—mine are sad enough, since I came home—I think the snow affects them—but that is going away gradually

we hope, and I shall not have that to complain of—tell little Serena, Ellen has lately appeared in an apron after the fashion of one of hers—as nearly as Mama's memory and ingenuity serves her—and she fancies there has a near and new relationship sprung up between them, in consequence. She is not quite so good a girl as Serena—but is improving—as for Bob I wish I could see him eat his dinner—it is a sight to cure a dispeptic—and little Sue—by the bye—is it decided who of you has the finest children yet?

Our Sarah has trotted away to Hartford, and our house is desolate. She deserves a scolding, I think—though you say, "Nothing"—she talks faster—laughs more, than ever I knew her—she says, it is second childhood.

Urania is by my side, who is reckoned the chief treasure in this part of the country—but you would better like Anna—who is so sly and roguish there is no living with her. When is your new book "coming out"? We are "all on tip toe," and Joseph will send it as soon as it appears. We expect to be delighted.

Mother sends love to you all—the girls too—all beg-

ging the "book" may come, as soon as possible.

I hope you will happen to find another stray sheet of paper, that will do for nothing better than to write me upon — Will you not look in the "little red portfolio"?

With love to the Walker Street cousins—and all others as you see them in your wanderings to Canal Street, and to "Lin's"—I must beg to be excused for writing you in such a hurry—and that my love may be accepted with yourself and all your circle at home—believe me always your affo cousin

Irene Battell

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Irene Battell to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York.1

Norfolk April 20" 1836

Dear Doctor

Only think of your letter coming to me so late, that I have not time even to send a "regret" in any season—

1 MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

much less to look over my music, put a clean "bib and tucker" in a shape to ride, and be in your most delightful circle tomorrow night, at eight, nine or ten o'clock as the proper time may be. I cannot tell you how very happy I should be could I go—indeed, it is hard for me to feel at all reconciled to my necessity. I would go a journey to attend one of your ordinary family parties—to hear you and Eliza sing—listen to Martin's jokes, and join Murray's laugh — to these charms, you have added in your list more than I could have believed possible and I am denied their magic—is it not too bad!—but I may as well be resigned for go I cannot now - though if Mother were at home, I might at least have the luxury of dreaming, though I do not know that a two days journey would take me as far as New York this muddy travelling. It is a pleasure to know you are to have such an evening, and I thank you most sincerely for the information, as also for the invitation. in good truth, Doctor - you are the kindest, most thoughtful cousin in the world, though you do write books — and I shall not soon forget to whom I am indebted for this "petition", and those flattering words "If we could only have Irene"—but I hope you will all be as happy as I know I should be—and I'll wish so the whole evening long — and try to catch some of the sweet sounds even at this distance. Oh I know I shall see Cic. laugh though I not at her side.

Maria wrote me of this Mifs Philipson—how long has she been practicing? If I remember correctly, her Uncle, who dined with yourself at Mr Hoffman's last winter, said he had a different system from the common, of teaching—which pushed one on at a prodigious rate. I would like to hear her, and be made acquainted with the mysteries of his profession—for my way is slow enough—and rugged too. Mrs Hills, or Hill, I have often heard of as a pianist—and once met her on Lake George—a sweet woman, I thought. Mifs Elwell, I dare say will charm you—Mr Ferhman would me—and Mr Dayton Hobart will Maria & Cecilia. What a pity I am not to be with him, to give him correct time!—I never thought of it until this moment—but Maria has a taste for "going ahead" in her instrumental and other performances. We

must despair of both of them Doctor—for Maria will be charmed beyond recall at his playing, and he will be habituated beyond reform at its effect—it will never do for

me to sing with him, certainly.

Maria wrote me of the dinner party at your brother Lins—it must have been delightful—and Cic wrote of a very pleasant evening party at your house—where she was very happy—yet missed me—(as I do her when I am not at your house.) where she saw your excellent friends Mr & Mrs Witherspoon—whom I would like to see too—as well as my cousin "Joseph", and your boy Bob, and your lady daughter Serena, and younger one Susan. Will you please give to each of them my love—and to Eliza and her sweet children. We are living very comfortably without Mother, but we hope to see her safely home on Saturday,—I am indebted to Maria & Cecilia for a thousand favours "last not least", for a precious letter from each—I shall write them soon.

Yours sincerely

Irene Battell.

Mifs Irene Battell tendereth her gracious homage to her distinguished petitioners of the far famed city of Gotham, & devoutly acknowledges her grateful sense of the very flattering mark of distinction by which they honour her—but deeply regrets her utter inability to comply with their earnest and kind petition—She begs leave to refer them to Doct: C. R. Gilman, respectively and collectively for an explanation of those "various hindrances" which must prevent her compliance with their "prayer, &c"—To each of them, she would be kindly remembered, and would assure them that their goodness, especially in this expression of their regard, will be long impressed upon her heart, and often "wake to memory there"—

To,

C. R. Gilman Serena Gilman Maria Hoffman Eliza H. Hoffman Lin

Mary Hoffman Mils C. Hoffman Harriett S. Hoffman Mrs Hoffman

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In April of this year, Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman took her daughter-in-law and baby to New York for the summer. They were accompanied by Benj. Ives Gilman and Rev. and Mrs. Lippincott.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton 30 April 1836.

My darling Wife,

I had the pleasure to receive the few lines you wrote from St Louis & was very glad to hear the babe stood the journey that far so well. Mr Gear arrived from Galena, I believe, the day after you left & I was in consequence obliged to prepare for an immediate trip to Springfield. I expected to go on Teusday after you left, but found I could not leave 'till Thursday, & then found so much to do that I had to put it off 'till the Monday following, & only returned yesterday afternoon. The roads were so bad that the Stage did not run from Springfield & I had to ride in a crate set on a tongue & axletree with but one pair of wheels, from Springfield to Carrollton & then got almost covered with mud. I never saw the roads in so bad a condition. It still keeps cloudy & rainy & the river is within a few inches of our warehouse. Last Sabbath we had a communion; Sermon by Rev^d M^r Spaulding of Cinti * & I enjoyed great happines in renewing my covenant with my God in company with many dear brethern who I hope we shall soon meet in the presence of our merciful & blessed Redeemer in Heaven. Isaac Scarrit & young Mr Jones joined the church. I have had a great prefs of business on my mind lately & I know I should have been much more puzzled with it, had I not have daily & frequently been able to cast all the care of it off & loose it in a feeling of trust in an overruling providence. Oh! we need not dearest have so "much care" as we do about "many things"; if we would but cultivate that prayerful, happy & submissive frame of mind which after we have endeavoured to do our duty leaves the result with God & trusts him without doubting, knowing that whether

^{*} Collection 450\$ Am Education Soy.

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he takes away or spares, whether he chastises or comforts all will work well for us, for our kind & dear father's at the helm. M' Turner gave two Temperance lectures, the last one Sunday eveg: when about 60 joined the Society—his succefs has been also very good at Upper Alton, Jerseyville & Carrollton. The Temperance paper will probably be out next week. I am becoming very zealous in this cause—the more I think on the subject the more important I consider it as a means of the conversion of the world & if my life is spared I think I shall endeayour to help on its progrefs in this State. Mr Pierson is (much to his own disappointment) getting better & I think he will soon be out again. When I am not immersed in business then I think of you love & of our darling Arthur & I want to see you again so much that it seems as tho' I could not wait so long as I probably shall have to. I hope to have frequent letters from you & particular ones that I may know what you do & where you go & who you see & how they act. You will see a great many new & wonderful sights & a thousand vain things, for all is not Gold that Glitters. I trust you will keep so near to God as will prevent the clouds of this world from screening him from your view. I pray, dearest, that you may be able to walk close with him. I have not heard from Benjamin since his letter of 5 inst. Please say to him that while I was gone our boys sold 3500 pigs lead @ 51/3c Cash & I can probably close 3 to 5000 more at same rate cash & shall probably do so. The Bank will probably do but a small business all summer - go on the side of safety—Sales of Goods are very brisk & our stock diminishing like the morning dew. Hope to get the Doctors book ere long. Remember me to your father & mother & Mifs Mary Jane & buy some nice sugar plums for her from me & be sure to give little Lin, Emily & the Doctors children many pretty little things as it will make Martin & Eliza Doctor & Serena think a heap more of you. I want you also to get a plenty of handsome plain new dresses. Shawls & such like things for yourself & dont be too careful of how much they cost. You must recollect darling you dont visit N York every year. I shall send you on some money soon, when I can meet with some





Mrs. Winthrop Sargent Gilman (Abia S. Lippincott) From an ambrotype taken in New Orleans, La., in 1848

small Eastern draft. Had you not better make one visit to your aunts¹ before I get on, as it is somewhat uncertain whether I can go there, but I should be glad to & will if I can. Tell Ben I am only waiting on Hayden for the completion of the draft of the Prairie House to give him the contract—he thinks he can build it by October or November. I shall look for Cap Godfrey here in about 2 weeks, I think I shall propose to him to give up our Dry Goods & Hardware business & try to have our capital called in more, which would I think give us all much more time & we have enough other business to occupy us, which I think would pay us well. I should be very glad if Maa could come out this fall & live with us, if Eliza will consent. Give my best love to her & to all the families & write often to your tenderly attached husband.

W S Gilman

Kindest love to Father & Mother.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton 7 May 1836

My dear Wife,

I wrote you about a week since & have since had the pleasure of receiving your letter with Maa's P. S. from Louisville & was very sorry to learn the party were so unwell but hope it was not of long Continuance, but that ere this you are safely landed in New York & have a good nurse to help you. I have regretted very much you did not Secure a nurse here as the fatigue of attending to the Child is, I think, what has worried Maa & made her sick.

It gives me a great deal of happiness to hear that you were well & had a good appetite & I trust I shall find you blooming as a "Hebe" when I get on to New York & that you have picked up your crumbs finely. I did not attempt to accommodate any at Presbytery—some went to Tavern & others to Upper Alton & on the whole it was rather a dry time, except M^r Turners temperance Lecture which was delivered before the Ministers. I spent

 $^{^{1}\ \}mathrm{Mrs.}$ Gilman's own aunt, Mrs. Jesse Crissey, of Monticello, N. Y., who was now a widow.

the night at Mrs Longs last night. She has given up Housekeeping & boards at her house with Prelle & his Their baby is about the age of ours but not one tenth part as pretty & has hardly a sign of any down or hair on his head. Upper Alton is improving about as fast as lower Alton & looks very pleasant. Mr Pierson is getting quite smart & I think will be out in two or three weeks. Mrs Emerson wanted to borrow our Spy Glass & I went up to our house & hunted over the closets but could not find it. The Hill looks charmingly now, everything is so fresh & green about it & I long to be at housekeeping & settled again & look forward very eagerly for the time to come when I may hasten to you, dearest, but my time is not at my own disposal or I would start very quick. I hope Cap Godfrey will soon get back, but do not wish Ben to come till late. I wish you would say to him, if he is in New York, that I have read his letter of 19 April & am much pleased with it. I have given out the Contract for the Prairie House, to be finished by 15 October next, & I think it will be a very neat dwelling. I do not write Benjamin thinking he may have started & having but little time, but give some news on the other page which you will please hand him if he is in New York, and with my best love to Maa & all the families I remain

Your tenderly attached

W S Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton Saturday Night 14 May 1836

My darling Wife,

The time has again rolled round for me to have the happiness of writing my own dear love, and a happiness indeed it is for I look forward to it with pleasure knowing that you love to hear from me. My last was written a week since, & I shall try to prove a punctual correspondent even tho' I have not much to tell you. I hope & believe I shall very often hear from you, for you know your letters afford me great satisfaction. The last mail

brought me your Maa's letter from Pittsburgh & I was rejoic'd to learn you had gone along so well & particularly that you were gaining flesh & seemed in such good spirits. We should be very thankful that our darling Arthur was so well, — I regret much that Mother's baby was so poorly but hope he improved as you approached the East. I long to see you dearest, and our little babe it seems an age to wait 'till July and I really think if I get you once again safe in my possession, I will not consent to part with you. Mrs Godfrey was in town to day & she was so anxious to hear I shew her Ben's last letter. She said the Captain should not go away again without her & I told her I had come to same conclusion in regard to my wife — I cant bear to be seperated so long from you & every day am getting more impatient, yet see no prospect of my leaving here before 25 June to 5 July & perhaps not then. Business is becoming less confining & I hope now to have time to go into the country a good deal. Last night I passed at Jno Mannings in Upper Alton. Mrs M had been sick for near a week but was rather better. She desired a great deal of love to Maa & you when I wrote. I forgot to pay your debt to Sewing Soy until I received your letter, but have let the ladies know it was my fault & paid the amount due. Mils Nutter was married a few evenings since to Mr King & they have gone up the Ill River Mr & Mrs King sent to you & myself a large slice of excellent wedding cake & I took about \(\frac{2}{3} \) ds of it immediately up to the house & wrapped it up very carefully in a towel—there it lies snugly packed away in one corner of the beaureau 'till you get back to eat it. Mr Mac Lane left us about one week after Presbytery. I paid him 10\$ from Maa He seemed very thankful & expressed himself very handsomely toward me & my family. I did not think of it today or would have got a Bank check for 100\$ & sent you, for I want you should get yourself & baby plenty of good plain pretty things & make abundance of little presents to the children, as they will all take it as a mark of peculiar good sense & discernment in you to notice them so much. You must remember me to your Aunts, Mr & Mrs Beckley &c &c

¹ Mrs. GILMAN's step-mother.

when you visit them. I have not determined the Situation of the prairie house as yet; as I find some beautiful sites close by the Seminary about 3/4 of a mile nearer Alton than Cap Godfreys & I would rather have 2 acres there than 20 in the field near the Captain's, the situation is so much prettier & higher. How does Martin come on getting our carriage? I wrote to him long since about the sale of his house & the purchase of another but have no answer from him—also wrote the Doctor for whom I made a first rate purchase. I have received Ben's very interesting letter of 25 April & should reply to it but have but little doubt he will have left N York before this reaches you. If he is there tell him I hope our Stock has been sold by Mr Starr at 111 & over, as the Bank will not probably declare a large dividend for a year or so as was expected. How comes on the Doctors Book? I don't hear of it or see any accounts of it. The Alton got to New Orleans safely & is expected up in a day or two. Have not heard from Lizzy as yet. Nothing very new in Alton, business has been brisk this Spring. Our meetings are very well attended on Sabbath, but the prayer meetings rather drag along — Christians as usual, recreant to their professions. We have not the love that was in Christ Jesus deep & lasting within us. We do not feel that continual sorrow for our brethren that Paul felt And we are too much like those on whom the woe is pronounced "that are at ease in Zion."—Oh! how ungrateful when Jesus has done so much for us. The Baptists are about building a very handsome church near Mr Lanes house, expect to have a high steeple with clock in it that will strike each hour. I am very anxious to see Cap Godfrey & hope he will soon arrive. I commit you & my child to the care of our heavenly father. If he grants us the priviledge of meeting & living long together here, we shall be very happy. With a great of love to my dear Mother, sisters & brothers, I am Yours affectionately

W S Gilman

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There are some allusions in Mr. Gilman's letters to his "scruples" about spending money for those things which

he considered luxuries. In his early life he dedicated his growing means to the great causes which he ardently upheld, and, in spite of all temptations incident to a large family, he consistently kept his pledge to himself. He began by giving away one-tenth of his net income and increased the proportion as his income increased, until he reached one-quarter. Systematic Benevolence was one of his hobbies and a little book on the subject still is in existence which was written in response to a premium offered by him in 1847.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton 21' May 1836

My dear Wife.

I wrote you a week since & have not had the pleasure of a letter from you since but expect very soon to learn of your arrival at New York. Captain Godfrey arrived vesterday & brought the pleasing intelligence that you had all got safely to Columbia Pa, for which I desire to be thankful. Nothing very interesting has occurred here. Last Sabbath evening we had a very excellent Sermon from Mr Graves on the prosperity of Alton &c, a very full house. Our temperance paper is published & I send a copy by this mail directed to Maa—we are determined to secure its extensive circulation thro' the State if possible. Cap G has brought on a plan for two very pretty houses for us, to be erected near the Bank; I tell him that the plan is too expensive an one—each house is about 28 feet by 51 with very wide entry, two parlours with folding doors - a very handsome back building attached to the house with Dining room & Kitchen in it on level with the parlours—ceilings very high & the plan altogether most commodious, beautiful & such as I think you would much approve of. I dont know whether we shall make early preparations to build, but should not be surprised if we were to, as my scruples are almost conquered by knowing that it would please you—and my own beloved & darling wife I do feel most anxious to do any thing for you who are so kind to me. It is to you

that I owe a great share of my enjoyments & happiness & it seems as tho' I could hardly be kind enough to you in return. I remember you & our dear babe often in my prayers & trust that God will give you abundant grace from that "river the streams whereof shall make glad the city of our God' May you enjoy high, pure & holy intercourse with the Father of our Spirits, and day by day gain strength to overcome the evils of this world, and be more & more conformed to Christ. I can hardly bear to think of the long weeks that are yet to pass before we meet—I cannot tell when I shall be able to leave here. but think of you very constantly & long for the happiness of your society. I enclose a check on Boston for two hundred & five dollars Drawn to order of L M Hoffman & C° which you must hand to Martin & he will let you have the money for it. One hundred dollars is for you & the remainder for Maa. With kindest love to all—Your sincerely attached & rather lonesome husband It is too late at night or should W S Gilman write more. A thousand Kisses for my darling boy.

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Just after the Prohibition Amendment to our Constitution became law, the Editor received a letter from one of WINTHROP S. GILMAN'S SONS, from which are taken some extracts; "The Temperance Herald [was] published by a Committee of which Father was Chairman. It was published at Alton and two hundred and fifty thousand copies were distributed. . . . Uncle Doctor contributed half a dozen articles and stories. . . These papers are dated 1837-1839. My thoughts have reverted to the work done by Father eighty years ago, since it now has borne full fruition. . . I feel that the early pioneers in this long campaign are worthy of special honor. . . and was glad . . . to do some slight thing in Father's memory yesterday. (January 19, 1919). So . . I made a pilgrimage to Greenwood and laid a wreath of immortelles on his grave."

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton 28 May 1836

My darling Wife,

I had the pleasure of writing to you last week endorsing I A Chandler Cash of Bank of Caledonia's check on Globe Bank Boston from Nathan Scarritt & endorsed to L M Hoffman & Co for \$205-100 of which was for you & the remainder for maa. I have since had the great happiness of receiving your very kind & interesting letter of 7 inst with Maa's P. S. & feel thankful you were all so comfortably over your journey. I am much indebted to our good friend Mr Whipple whom I have a very high opinion of. Your & maa's friends here enquire often about vou & our darling little Son & feel much affection & interest for you both. Mrs Dr Long has a fine boy & Lucia had a fine girl that nursed well & appeared very well for about a day & all at once died suddenly without any apparent cause & I hear she has since been very ill. I should think she would feel dreadfully & I sympathize with her & regret much her lofs. Mrs Manning's health is so poor that they have let a Mr Tower take the house & they board with him which I am very glad of as it will no doubt relieve her much. Mr Graves left us last Monday to go to Marietta for his parents & will probably be back in two or three weeks, & I am boarding at his house while he is gone. The girl who is living there (Mifs Penser) is the same one Maa tried to get for you as nurse & she says she should have gone if she had known it. I was at Captain Godfrey's a night or two since & we have concluded to build two houses adjoining the Bank, the corner for himself & the next to corner for us & the plan he has is most beautiful. I have drawn a little sketch of it so that you may see how you will like it. I had some scruples whether I ought to build so expensively, but I have thought that in building I had better erect a good & large house so that we could have room to accommodate plenty of good folks as they come along, but I hope you will accord with me in having it very plainly furnished, while it is well furnished. My dearest & darling petty it gives me very great pleasure to erect this house as I 614

know you will like it & I am determined to try to have it finished so that we may, if our lives are spared, spend the winter in it—on Monday Morning a large gang of hands commence digging the cellars & I doubt not I could have the houses finished were I to stay here, but fear we may be disappointed. Oh! I do long, long, long to be with my own dear love & as the time grows shorter that seperates us, it hangs heavier & absence seems the more insupportable. I intend to try hard to get off between the 20 June and 1t July and am now arranging my business in view of that. Mr Delevan the Chairman of the Ex Come N. Y. State Tempe Sov. is to be here Monday & our Ex^e Committee expect to have a conference with him about measures &c &c. Temperance goes on well—we put a copy of our paper into every House in town & they will do the same at many places & we think Mr Turner has done a great deal of good already. I wish the Doctor would bend his talents to this subject & write some short & pointed temperance, allegories stories or the like for our paper. I feel very desirous that our Temperance paper should circulate extensively & in order to this, want that it should show talent in its columns. Our Come will pay well for his services, besides the great reward he would have of knowing he was doing good. I observe that the American Temperance Societys annual meeting is on 5 August at Saratoga Springs & American Temp Union meet at same place on the 9" of August which if I can possibly so arrange it I want to attend accompanied by Mother, my darling wife & any of the rest of the family or friends that will go. Please say to the Doctor that Rev^d M^r—Mifs Matilda Nicholas Husband called on me a short time since & was quite well. Jno Van Antwerp & a large number of the Young Men of Alton expect to build a large boarding house for themselves just below our gate on William Street—it is a Stock company. The Hotel is like to be erected at last. I have a letter from Beniⁿ & see he is likely to return via Galena & shall probably write him to that place in a few days. I today received a letter from Elizth all well, Lebanon 5 May, she seemed very well pleased & expressed a great deal of gratitude to us. The postscript of her father evinces a very generous disposition I will copy it. "In addition Dear Sir I have to say that my daughter joins me in adding a draft on Mr Hoffman New York for \$100 - which we beg your acceptance as a small return for many favors, to purchase just what you & your good lady please for a Keep Sake". I enclose the draft which Martin will pay you & you must buy something with it to remember my dear lizzy with. Let it be something useful as well as ornamental, darling. I think you better write me as soon as you receive this to care of Henry Starr Esq: Cincinnati & pay the postage. Give my very kindest, warmest & best love to my darling mother & remember me affectionately to all the family not forgetting our dear father & mother & Miss Mary Jane for whom & Lin & all the children I hope you get plenty of sugar plums, cakes & pretty things. Your sincerely attached husband

W S Gilman

[The plan of a very simply arranged house was drawn in by Mr. Gilman.]

Not having room I have drawn the back buildings here again—
House fronts 28 ft to Street
the back building is 2 Stories
high back stairs go up between
the kitchen & sitting room to
chambers above—
House 2 Stories besides basement—
first story 12½ feet high—
House of Brick, with green blinds—

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton 4 June 1836

My darling Wife —

Saturday night has again come with all its relief after a very busy, exciting & pleasant week. Wednesdays mail brought me your & maas very interesting & affectionate letter of 14 May & I observe you have been writing me on Saturdays the very day that I have employed in part in the same delightful way. I am glad you attended one of the Anniversaries & hope for the happiness of waiting on you to one of the greatest meetings that has ever taken place in the United States, at Saratoga Springs 4

Augt.

I had written thus far when I had to go to a Tract Meeting & it is now after 10 Oclock at night & I shall therefore not have the pleasure of writing much. I regret much to inform you of Lucia Randall's death which took place about 4 days since—she seemed during her sickness a pattern of patience & said she had been praving for months that she might be prepared to die & we hope she is now happy in heaven. Mrs Alexander is very low with liver complaint & but little hope of her recovery. She is completely resigned & looks forward to death with perfect composure. I am very glad you were going to Philadelphia & also that you had procured a good nurse, hope she will come out with you to Alton & that you will get as fat & plump as Abia Lippincott was when I fell first in love with her at the Wedding in the little log cabin—Oh! my darling how can I bear this seperation— I cannot bear the thoughts of it & were it not that I am so hurrid that I can have no time to think. I should almost sink under this painful absence. I am glad your money vanishes, I have sent you 100\$ which I suppose will last nearly 'till I come on, but shall probably send more soon if I can meet with a little draft. Mr Delevan the Chairman of the Ex^e Com^e N Y S. Temp^e So has been here with his wife & I never became acquainted with a couple that I esteeemed so highly on so short an acquaintance. I would have given almost any thing had we been at housekeeping. Mr D met our Exe Come & had a talk with them of about 3 hours & stirred them up amazingly in the Temperance cause, so that we have raised 1000\$ to assist in carrying on Tempe plans in Illinois & expect to furnish every family in the State with a copy of the "Permanent Temperance Documents" & our Exe Come will spend several thousand dollars in the cause this year. We expect to build a house for a Bible, Tract & Sunday School & Temperance Depository

for Maa

Thank you my dear Mother for your P. S. to Abia's letters. You judge well that I am most interested in hearing about my own dear Abia & I know I never shall feel grateful enough to you for your uniform kindnefs & love displayed toward her & myself. I trust I may soon have the pleasure of being with you & would like, if consistent, that you could accompany us to Alton this fall & spend the winter in our new house. Revd W Woodbridge from N York The agent of Am: Tract Society has been here & he promised me to call & see you in New York—he was much pleased with Alton & I think him a most excellent & devoted man. You will be very sorry to hear of Mrs Longs affliction. She bore it with complete submission altho' it was a terrible blow to them both. She & all your friends almost always ask for you & desire a great deal of love. My health is quite good & I expect to start on Teusday for Springfield to Stay near a week at the Bank Election. Mr McLain is at Chicago & not very well pleased there I hear — with my most ardent affection for all the family Y' aff Son W S Gilman

To My Wife again—
in Alton & are immediately to commence tract visitations
throughout the town. M^{rs} Fuller in consequence of over
exertion at Galena has been confined prematurely with a
still born child, but was doing well. I have written to Ben
at Galena—suppose he goes there to see Mifs Miles.
We are to have M^r Baker to preach for us tomorrow.
M^r Delevan appears to be a very devoted Christian & you
would be charmed with his wife. Give my love to Father
& Mother, Doctor Eliza Serena Martin & Kifs the little
ones for me dearest. Oh! that I had one sweet Kifs
from my own darling love. I shall hasten on but cannot
tell when I can leave. Affectionately your attached

Winthrop S Gilman

How does my dear little Son come on You don't hardly mention him in your last. How I should like to see him outshine Martins & the Doctors children—they may think their children the prettiest but we know better—Don't we maa?

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton Monday Night

My dear Wife, 6 June 1836

I wrote to you on Saturday night & this morning have had the pleasure to receive yours of 21 May. I regret exceedingly you should have been deprived the pleasure of a trip to Philada for want of means & am truly sorry I was so thoughtlefs about sending them. I annex a draft on Howes Godfrey & Robinson N York for 100 Dollars which Martin will cash for you. It is now late at night & I start tomorrow for Springfield to be absent about one week. Did I tell you Mrs Fuller had been prematurely confined and lost her child—She was doing well. Mrs Alexander is a little better & they are somewhat encouraged about her. We are trying to get on with our houses but I fear they will move slowly. I should not think of going East if you were only here. I have not written to Sam' Robbins for want of time. think with you that New York & its gaveties tend to draw down our minds to Earth. We do not feel that Deadness to this world which inspires the feeling that to die is great gain, while we are there—but this is not attributable to the place but to the manner of spending time. Could you be engaged there, in the bible class, prayer meeting, Sabbath School, tract visitation, relief of the distressed & have frequent & close intercourse with God in prayer, the streams of the river of his grace would make glad your soul & you would find New York a happy place to dwell in. Does not the secret then of all true enjoyment lie in possessing such love to God & man as will draw us out in constant benevolent effort for the good of others? May you be enabled thro' our Blessed Redeemer to stand justified before God in that day which is close by when we shall meet before him with the assembled universe. Oh! how vain, foolish & trifling will all things then appear which take up so much of our precious time now. I hope our dear little Son may be spared & prove a blessing to us & to the World. If he is spared, dearest, great responsibility rests with you & you cannot be too prayerful or too studious how you shall acquit

vourself.

Give my very kindest & warmest love to my darling Mother. Oh! I do want her to come out with us & think Eliza must let her go. With great affection for Eliza, Chandler Martin, Serena, your parents & all the chicks I am

Your aff husband

W S Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Springfield 11 June 1836

My dear Wife,

I wrote to you about 4 days since from Alton with a draft on Howes, Godfrey & Robinson for 100\$ which I hope you have received. I left Alton on Teusday afternoon in Mr Davis' little Dearbourn Waggon in Company with Mr Porter from Litchfield Ct. who had been to Alton, purchased one of our river lots & expects to commence the wholesale business in the fall, there. The weather was very hot & we had not a very pleasant ride. I forgot to mention to you that I have purchased a new horse for 105\$ & I think he will prove a very good one—he is much more spirited than Charley, about as large but not so clumsy - goes very well in a dearbourn altho I believe he had never been in shafts before - Colour, bay. When is our Dearbourn coming out, I have not heard from Martin for a long time. It is now the time of annual meeting at Springfield, Election of New Directors Comes on the 14; & I shall have to stay here 'till after that time. My health is very good & this trip will be a good relaxation to me as I shall probably have been absent from Alton 8 or 9 days & have had very little to do. I am staying at the Tayern - went to Dr Jaynes to tea last night but do not stay there as I fear it will put them to Some trouble. Last night attended a prayer meeting at Dr Todd's but did not enjoy it very much. Mrs Todd & Mrs Smith are both quite unwell - Dr Jaynes & family quite well & all ask very particularly about you & father & mother.

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I wish you, my love, on receipt of this to purchase a handsome copy of a book lately published called "Permanent Temperance Documents' it is a large work of probably some 4 or 500 pages; I want you should do it up neatly in paper with the letter to Cap Ryder endorsed & direct on the outside to Simeon Ryder Esq Care Howes. Godfrey & Robinson & have it sent to Howes Godfrey & Robinsons store. Please oblige me by attending to this immediately & let as little be said or known about it as possible. I am very anxious to see you & our dear Arthur & hope to get off the last of this month. Please write to me the day you receive this directed to Care of Knox & McKee Wheeling Va & I shall probably receive it. You had better pay the postage however, as I may pass before it reaches Wheeling, but think I shall not. The weather has changed suddenly & become very cold & I hope to have a pleasant time returning. Your letters are a source of great happiness to me & I am anxious to get back to Alton as I expect there will be one there for me & I hope to hear that little Arthur is doing well. You must not write in such a hurry however as not to mind your stops & omit to begin your sentences with capitals as it will get you into a carelefs way. must take pains now to do every thing well so that your children may copy after your bright Example, darling. I am actually longing for the company of my wife & child the absence is a very painful one to me & I sometimes think a little more so than it is to you, you are so pleasantly situated with friends & comforts around youbut I know you want to have your husband with you to share in all your pleasures. It is my greatest earthly happinels to please & make happy my own beloved wife & the thought that you have the same dear feelings towards me, gives me the greatest pleasure & makes me anticipate with greater delight our meeting. I think how you look & what you have said to me in days that are past, & fancy you near me, until I exhaust imagination & cannot hardly bring your features before me. I hope a month will find us together in health & happy in the enjoyment of the Society of our dear relatives at New York. Give my most ardent love to Maa & Eliza & remember me to each one of the families. I want you should buy some pretty present for Aunt Jayne, something like what she gave you I expect would be acceptable when we get back. I have some idea we may return via Detroit & Chicago thro' Peoria & this place to Alton. Hope we can get some servants at the East. With a thousand of the most endearing & fondly cherished remembrances of yourself I am truly

Your tenderly attached husband

W S Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton 18 June 1836

Dearest Abia,

My last was written a week since at Springfield from which place I returned on Thursday & found your welcome letter of 30 May. I am truly glad you are so fortunate with your nurse & if you still continue to like her & she is willing to come to Alton I should be pleased to have her accompany us on our return. Should we get into our new house you would want her still more as there would be much more to take up your time. I intend to have the closets arranged as you wish in the parlours, but do not think we shall get into our house till Spring. I want very much to see my darling son & expect I shall find a great alteration in his appearance. The letter about Bens house came to late to alter the plan bt I think it will probably please him. I will try to remember your table covers. I have not been up to our house for a long time. It makes me feel unpleasantly to see by your letters that you have been deprived some enjoyments for want of money, which I was so careless as to put off sending so long. I expect you have received enough to last 'till I arrive. I do not think I shall leave Alton as early as I had hoped, not probably before 5 to 20 July & could I express my feelings entirely to you, you would find I regret the delay exceedingly, but yet feel sure that duty calls me here & I therefore yield without a murmur & determine to be content. I hope you

will make a visit to your Aunt if possible before I get on — I expect to ride out to Captain Godfreys more frequently than I have done. It has been utterly impossible for me to follow your & Maa's request to sleep at Upper Alton. I am rejoiced to hear Ben is so well. Hope to see him in two or three days. Mrs Alexander has been almost insensible for two days & I presume will not live another week. Mrs Long desired her love to you Maa & all. I have just received the Doctors letter with the two Rail Road Maps & will try to answer it at once. Please request him to call at Mr Frisby's & order for me a very fine frock coat of olive green, or olive, Dark Shade, the sleeves to be considerably larger than last year's measure, also a fine vest or two & a pair of fine blue cloth or cassimere pantaloons, made decidedly larger about the hips than heretofore & let M' Frisby have them sent up to Martin's as soon as possible so that I may have them ready when I arrive, as I shall be short of fine cloathes. weather is very hot. Mr Graves not yet returned. Health very good.

With my best love to Maa Eliza Serena D^r—Martin & all & a Kiss for my little Son & many prayers & Kind

wishes for you my darling, I am,

hastily Your attached husband
Give my love to your parents W S Gilman
My apology for so short a letter as it is getting late,
Saturday night & considerable yet to do.

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Alton June 25th 1836

My darling Wife,

In my last I requested that you would get the Doctor to speak to M^r Frisby for a new olive green frock coat for me, a little larger in the sleeves than heretofore, which I want should be ready for me at Martins when I arrive, which I am now in hopes will be about the 22^d to 26 July. I find I shall have to go to Springfield the last of next week say about 3^d July & shall start from there for New York via Chicago in Company with M^{rs} Long who is to

stop at M^{rs} Silvers at Edwardsburgh Michigan, & James Godfrey who visits the East in part for his health which

is not very good.

The Captain wished me to take James in charge & I expect he wishes him to return with us. Benjamin arrived the first of the week looking very well & hearty. I have never known so general a time of good health at the season as there is now, so much so that the labourers all are at work & every thing looks lively. When I last wrote I did not expect to get off near as soon as I probably shall. Benjamin has commenced staving for the Summer at Cap Godfrey's, of which I am truly glad as I believe it will be very conducive to his health. I have been out to Cap Godfreys frequently of late & it is very pleasant there. I think I should be very glad to spend 2 or 3 months each summer out of town when the prairie house is finished. Your letter of 6 inst is received with Maa's P. S. all which is very interesting. I am so anxious to get away & be with you, my dearest, that I dont hardly know what to do & my trip is put off so late that I shall as soon as I arrive have to commence our purchases & be exceedingly occupied all the time I am east. I wish to start back about 20 Augt to 1 Sepr by way of Niagara & the lakes & hope you will have made your visits generally before I come on, as I shall have a number of little tours for you to take with me that will occupy considerable time, to Providence, Boston, Saratoga, &c &c. Our house progresses very slowly, the basement story now building. I wish I could have been with you at the Infant School Exhibition. Mr Graves has returned with his parents in good health. Mrs Alexander died the first of the week & was buried at Upper Alton. I have been afraid if Arthur has the whooping Cough, we cannot travel much with him. Is it so? Mr Baldwin is out at the Captains & I start out in a few minutes with Ben to meet him & spend the night on the Prairie. I find the nights out there are much cooler & pleasanter than in town & they have the best beds I almost ever slept on. I want you and Maa to look out 2 or more first rate feather beds & purchase them for us & I think we better sell off some of ours.

Business has been very brisk all this month. I have been elected Director in the State Bank again. I have Received a very Kind letter from Mr Delavan at Chicago & he seems very desirous to see me at the East. You will be delighted with his wife—she is such a lovely woman, so intelligent & such piety running thro' all & casting a beauty over all she does. I cant really bear to think that it will be nearly a month yet before we meet—dont be out of town dearest. Kiss my dear Son for me & give my warmest love to maa and all the family & remember me affectionately to Father & Mother. Good bye dearest. Shall probably write again at the time I leave for Spring-field

Your tenderly attached & fond husband W S Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Springfield, Saturday Night 2 July 1836

My dear Wife, At length I have the pleasure to inform you of my being thus far safely on my journey towards New York. My two last letters were written in the midst of so much bustle that you must excuse their not being more particular, and if they have been deficient in expressing the deep & tender regard I have for you, dearest, do not impute it to a wrong cause. I cherish for you, more than ever it seems to me, the most tender attachment, and I hope if God spares our lives, we may meet again with renewed determinations to strive to do all things well & to deserve from each other all that affection which is mutually bestown. I should not have consented to have come this route, but business obliged me to come thus far & I thought I could then reach N York via Chicago about as quick, as to return & start from Alton Via the Ohio river. And as Mrs Long wished to go with me as far as Edwardsburgh, Mⁿ, I was the more induced to choose this route. We left Alton, day before yesterday & reached Carrollton before night & as I had been thinking about you nearly all day, I very naturally took a walk to

the place where I first had the great happiness of receiving the assurance of your affection. I went past the house two or three times & looked in so intently that the inmates seemed to look upon me almost with suspicion. Things did not look as they did in the old times—the plastering was off & the interior of the house lacked that appearance of neatness that it had when you my darling, dearest, only beloved one were there. I thought of the time when I kissed you & called you by so many endearing epithets, and also of the time when we sat down together in the little lane, and many delightful remembrances of the past crowded my mind & made me long for the time soon to arrive which should bring me back to you. I felt too that I had not at all times treated you with that consideration & Kindness which your warm affection for me and uniform Kindness deserved in return. Oh! that I may so conduct in future that God can consistently blefs you & myself darling with continued happiness in this world. Does it not seem as tho' it would be almost too good a lot for us to enjoy so much here & after a little get to heaven, there to dwell with Christ forever?

I believe, my dearest, that if we are truly the Children of the holy Spirit, God will not give us such happiness continued & unfailing in this world, unlefs we live for his honor & glory, feel our own nothingness, sinfulness & give his name in some manner the praise due to it. Does this letter then Darling find you in a meek, humble spirit, taking delight in coming into the presence of God in secret & worshipping him in spirit & in truth? Does it find you in frequent habits of meditation on Heaven, Eternity & do you realize that but a step seperates you from the grave, where your beautiful body shall lie a prev to worms, ere it rise clothed with the beautiful garments of a redeemers righteousness? If your mind be in this calm & happy frame, I pray dearest that it may continue that you may grow in grace & become more useful. I have, in a poor way, often remembered you & our dear boy in my prayers, and oh! darling if you do not have these enjoyments that I have written about seek them with penitence & continued & increasing prayer & you shall receive. Mr

Lamb & I had a delightful talk this afternoon—he said he found great benefit, if he could not get near the Lord in prayer & found his feelings cold, to come to his closet again at once & seek more diligently. Your last letter gave me a great deal of pleasure, particularly that part where you say you had copied from "Practical Piety" to imprefs it on your memory; may you find a blessing attend all such efforts. I have found great advantage from making such extracts & also from writing down feelings etc etc at different times. Took tea at Mrs Jaynes. Mr Slater is very unwell with Rheumatism & I think dangerously so. The rest well & all enquire for you. We expect to leave on Monday & reach Chicago last of the Week & hope to get to N York by Saturday night 23d July or early week after, but I may be detained longer as I hear the Stages are full for a week ahead on the routes above. With great love for Maa Eliza, Martin Dr & all Your W S Gilman attached

If I should not get a chance to pay the postage, please

pay it to Martin.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. Winthrop S. Gilman, Monticello, N. Y.

4th July Monday afternoon

My inclination to hear from my two sons, dear Abia, was so great, that I opened your letter—and it is well that I did—for now I can have his order sent to M^r Frisby immediately. The Doc^r has received a letter from Benjamin whom we think soon arrived from Chicago to Alton. His letter was dated 10th June. We have missed you exceedingly. But forgive me dear Abia, when I tell you I missed your darling boy the most. Colden says you requested him to tell the Doc^r you should be in Newburgh next friday night. So you may expect to see the Doc^r Saturday—in time to come to New York with you in the Albany Boat which arrives here at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Both families are well—except poor Grand maa—who sickens to see her sweet little boy. Serena, and all her children passed this day with

us—and the Doc^r passed it at Hoboken, with Deacon Pond—and one or two other friends. As dear Winthrop says he shall leave Alton from the 5th to the 20th—and as it is probable he saw his brother a day or two after the enclosed was written—I shall expect him very soon, and I think he will be here much sooner than he expected to when his letter was written. Kifs my little darling a thousand times for your attached mother—H Gilman

All send love

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, New York.

Huron, Ohio, 16th July 1836

Dear Wife, Saturday Eve^g

I have but a moment or two to say to you that I arrived safely at Detroit on Thursday Morning last, but about 1 hour too late to take the boat that day for Buffalo, else we should probably to night have been in Rochester & I probably should have enjoyed the very great happiness of meeting you on Wednesday next.

We left Detroit yesterday morning, but in Consequence of a strong wind & very heavy sea have only reached this place whereas we expected to be at Buffalo tonight. Here we expect to spend the Sabbath & Shall consequently be much delayed & probably reach New York on Saturday night next or on the Monday or Tuesday following. I am very sorry for the delay, which seems almost insupportable, but I try to consider it as a trial of patience & remember that our Heavenly father orders all things right. May he (above all things) my darling, grant unto vou & myself great Spiritual blessings & if so, our temporal ones are but of comparatively little consequence. Give my ardent love to Maa, Eliza Martin Serena Dorta & all & Kiss my darling little Son for me. I am thinking of you & anticipating the happiness of being with you, almost all the time & hope we may soon be permitted to meet in health.

¹ As Mr. Gilman did not travel on Sunday, this letter could reach New York before him.

With the tenderest feelings of warm attachment & affection, I am Your husband

W S Gilman

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Two babies came to the New York homes at the time of this visit, neither of whom lived beyond childhood. Mrs. Martin Hoffman had a son, Martin, Jr., who was born August 2d, and Mrs. Chandler R. Gilman, a daughter, Annie Wotherspoon, born September 29th. Mr. and Mrs. Gilman staid in the east through the summer and early fall and, while making the long and trying journey back to Illinois, met their first great sorrow. Their baby was taken sick in Cincinnati and died there October 1, 1836.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman, New York.

Cincinnati 2^d October 1836

Dear Mother,

I wrote to you a few days since informing you of the serious illness of our beloved child & now have the painful task before me of informing you of his decease. We know this will be a severe affliction to you & my wife joins me in asking you to draw comfort & support from that source whence we derive them; from him who has been your refuge in many troubles; from that God from whom this dispensation comes. Altho' we may mourn when we reflect that our levely boy will no longer be present with us, that we shall see no more of his pleasant ways; still we would kiss the hand that afflicts us, knowing surely that he for our profit chastens us that we may be partakers of his holinefs. While I reflect on this subject I cannot but think, if we ever reach heaven, we shall remember these visitings of Providence with emotions of holy joy & gratitude whilst we contemplate their connection with the great increase of our happiness. We know that this is order'd for our benefit & while we weep over our beloved son we desire to blefs & praise God our rock,

for the gracious hopes he allows us to enjoy. The babe was sick nearly ten days & his disease cholera infantum, terminating on the brain. He appeared better two or three days since & his disease seemed to change towards disenterry, which the doctor could not check until he became exceedingly weak & vesterday at about 2 oclock he showed symptoms of an affection of the brain when mustard was immediately applied to his feet, but without any effect. Doctor Drake was called in consultation, & recommended an acid bath & blisters which was tried about 8 in the evening—after which he appeared easy & laid quiet in the cradle without tossing his head & we were in hopes he was getting better. He remained quiet & apparently almost asleep till after 11 at night, during which time he had hot application to the feet & a little stimulating drink with cold applications to the forehead; but all was in vain he was gradually sinking whilst we did not know it. At about 20 m. after 11 we heard a noise in his throat. I felt his pulse & was almost sure he was dying; still I ran for the Doctor, but in about 5 minutes he was a corpse in Abia's arms & before my return. We have had good attention here & the Doctor (whom Henry Starr says is a man of uncommon judgment & as good as could be had) has been exceedingly kind & attentive. We therefore feel as if he had had every attention. We expect to leave here tomorrow & carry the body with us to be deposited by the side of his dear Grandfather & Uncle. Abia joins me in a great deal of love to you & all the families as also to her father & mother, to whom she wishes you to communicate the particulars of this letter. hopes this may make no difference in your coming to Alton & says she shall now more than ever need your Your affectionate Son society.

W S Gilman

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WINTHROP S. GILMAN to John G. Miller and Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Elizabeth H. Miller, Natchez, Miss.¹

Alton, Nov. 19th, 1836

Mr. Jno. Gibbons Miller,

Dear John:

I have been much gratified with your P. S. & pleased to learn you are so far advanced in your studies. We have a first rate preparatory Dept. & College at Upper Alton and I hope your father will send you to live a while with us. I am sorry you will not have an opportunity to see your Cousin Arthur. He is gone & we all must soon follow and I pray you & my dear nephew Joseph will be prepared for death—we know not how soon all our opportunity will have passed away. Give a great deal of love from myself and wife to Benjamin, to your father and Joseph and come up to Alton as soon as you can, when you shall have a hearty welcome from

Uncle W. S. Gilman

I wrote you, my dear Elizabeth, I think the day before I left New York. I then informed you that I had packed up the Portrait with your dear mother's paintings and your little bureau stuffed full of things for you all. Your uncle Martin told me he would direct the boxes and send them to New Orleans, and write to your father that he may know when to send for them. I arrived at Alton last Thursday night 17th. Had a very interesting journey under the protection of Mr. & Mrs. Long. From Cincinnati we had on board the boat seven clergymen who were very pleasant and agreeable. We had morning and evening prayers, and the passengers treated them with great respect. I found your Uncle and Aunt well, but O Elizabeth, you can have no idea how much I miss that precious little Arthur. Everything I look at reminds me of him. But I desire to be still and know that it is the Lord and that he has a right to do as he will with his own.

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

² Probably this refers to the portrait of Mrs. John S. Miller which is reproduced on the opposite page.





Mrs. John S. Miller (Rebecca I. Gilman)

From a portrait owned by her granddaughter, Mrs. Brant (Jane Coe),
of Rolla, Mo.

We miss you, my dear and I long to see you and to have you with me. Do persuade your father to come and see us, and see Alton. I think that the present time is the best for selling his plantation, & moving here. I know he would be pleased with this place. Here he would have the means of grace for himself and children, good schools for them, and a happy home. Love to them all. Do write as often as you can. Everyone asks for you with great interest. From your affectionate Grand-ma

H. Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Gilman, New York.

Lower Alton Nov^r 21st

My very dear children.

I wrote Eliza while we were at Alexandria and then again when we arrived in Pittsburgh. We tarried there one night, and left the place next morning at ten o clock in the Steam Boat Milsissippian. As usual, the Captⁿ would not consent to wait for me to land and I wrote a note to my dear sister 1 lamenting that I could not see her. I was informed that two of her daughters were married, Hannah and Jane. Hannah to a clergyman, and Jane to one of the the Professors in the college. I think Marietta has improved very much. I was told that M^r Woodbridge had received a letter from his son who was in New York—saying he felt much indebted to you for the kind attention he had received while there. We arrived at Cincinnati saturday afternoon at 4 o clock. We put up at the Cincinnati Hotel, where we had good accommodations—and there we passed the Sabbath. Mr Long called in the evening at Henry Starr's office, and he returned with him, to see me - and invited us all to sit in his pew the next day. Sunday morning he called for us. and we all went with him to hear Doc Beecher. He had Just returned with his new wife. After the afternoon service he told his congregation that he had been separated from them some time and it would gratify him

¹ Mrs. Samuel P. Robbins, of Marietta, widow of Mrs. GILMAN's brother.

very much, if they would all call on him on tuesday wednesday and thursday. I presume he wanted to introduce to them his wife. I was told that she had made a good impression on every one and was a very superior woman. While I was walking with cousin Henry to church he said to me—cousin I am going to tell you something concerning myself, which if I do not-you may think it a want of confidence in me. I said what is it Mr Starr. Why said he - I am going to be married this week to a widow with four children. I was pleased to hear that the Lady was the widow of James Morsell. She is a very pious woman—prudent—and economical. and I think will make him a good wife. I presume the secret is now out and of course you have heard the news before this. How is dear M^r P R Starr. I feel very anxious to hear from him—and hope his life will be prolonged many years. We left Cincinnati on tuesday morning ten o clock in the Steam Boat Clinton. We had one hundred and fifty passengers. Among them we were favoured with seven clergymen. They made themselves very agreeable - and we had prayers every night and morning—with singing—and reading a portion of the scriptures. The ladies proposed it—and each clergymen took their turn, after having the consent of the Cap^{tn}. I was so fortunate as to have a state room—altho we were so much crowded. We arrived at Louisville wednesday evening. Thursday noon we went on board the steam boat Post boy excefsively crowded and I slept in the ladies cabin, where there were but eight Berths and 34 ladies. I could hardly breathe. We left the Steam Boat at Smithland, to pass the Sabbath. We were very well accommodated—and went to an Episcopal church or rather a small school house—where we heard a good sermon from an Episcopal youth—who keeps school—and preaches one sermon on the sabbath. As there were no appointments for the afternoon our land lord gave us leave to have a meeting appointed at his house—as he had two very large rooms. At 3 o clock the house was full and we had an excellent sermon from a M^r Davidson of Kentucky—one of our passengers. In the evening, the house was again filled and we listened to a fine discourse from Mr Baldwin - one of the passengers - and manager of Capt Godfrey's Semonary.1 Monday morning Just as we had taken our breakfast the steam boat Vermont came in sight, and we went on board and arrived at St Louis wednesday morning—then went on 'board the Wyoming, & arrived at Alton 9 o clock in the evening. Mr & Mrs Long went home in Winthrop's carriage and Mrs Howes went to Capt Rider's. Winthrop was at the landing & I walked up to the house where we found Benjamin and Abia in perfect health. O what shall I render to the Lord for all these mercies. I have had one of the most interesting Journey's that I ever had to this place. A sketch of it will be printed in the Alton Observer which I will send you. It will come out this week, written by Mr Baldwin. I have seen a letter from Elizabeth written to Winthrop while he was in New York. It is one of her best letters. She laments the lofs of her religious privileges and says she has not heard a sermon, since she left Alton. I hope you will all write me, as often as you can. Give my love to every member of my family. Martin & Eliza—with all theirs and all your dear ones. Tell my dear Jane to make herself useful and agreeable to all. Winthrop & Benjⁿ Join me in tender love to all

your affectionate mother H G.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mrs. Martin Hoffman, New York.

Lower Alton Dec^r 12th 1836

I began this, dear Eliza, before the anniversaries—and wrote a little very often. So I will copy it and send it by this mail. Wednesday 23^d November. When Winthrop came up to dinner my dear E—— he brought me your very interesting letter and I afsure you we all had a feast. I feel very grateful to our merciful father in heaven for keeping all my beloved children and grand children in such good health, and also for the health we

 $[\]ensuremath{^{1}}$ The Monticello Female Seminary founded by Captain Godfrey at Monticello, Ill.

here enjoy. Altho dear Abia is very much debilitated and mourns often her lofs. Yet She says she cannot wish her precious child back to this world of sorrow because she has every reason to believe he is now among the blessed in heaven. Your dear brother Benjamin looks better I think than I have seen him for many years. I arrived here the 16th and wrote a long letter to the Doc^r the 20th I think. I intended to have told him that the weather was most delightful during our Journey and we had not a drop of rain until we came on to the Mifsifsippi—where we had the most dreadful gust I ever witnefsed. But in lefs than an hour all was calm and fair. And it remained so, until the day after my arrival at this place. Last friday—saturday—and sunday—was a long storm of rain - and I could not go to church which was a trial. In perusing your letter, I was much surprised at the account you gave of a visit from William Lawrence. How could be say that Mr E was not a man of piety. They may say anything of him but that. And I think it wicked for them even to suspect his piety. Pray let them all pull out the beam from their own eyes before they try to pick at his mote. I think they have great reason to be thankful that the Lord has given them such a son and brother. I hope dear E, you will continue your Journal — for it is Just what I want. I love a particular detail of every thing. I feel quite proud that dear little Emily has began to talk. I think Lin, will be a great advantage to her—he is so indefatigable. Tell him he must learn her to say Gram maa. I want you to tell the Doe' that notwithstanding I rode over a very rough road all the way from Alexandria to Pittsburgh-yet the quinces were Just as perfect, and sound as when you put them into the canister. The Raspberries were the same. But the Pine apples were candied quite hard. I wonder that they should be so, for Mrs Lippincott had some Pine apples preserved by her sister in New York that were without exception, the nicest I ever saw. The syrup looks as fair, as water. I think I shall put some water in our's and boil them over. Mrs Manning and Mifs Ward called very soon to see me and enquired for you all with much interest. 25th. I rode out with Benj'n Abia and Winthrop to see Ben's house. It is very handsome, and most beautifully situated. He expects it will be finished before spring. We also called to see Mrs Godfrey, who has been confined nine days with her seventh daughter! James is in the store of Godfrey Gilman & Co. Their two oldest daughters who are in this country are in the school at Jacksonville. Winthrop's things have all arrived from New Orleans, and nothing broken, but the best centre Lamp, which was in your front chamber. Sunday 27th. I have rode to church all day. In the morning we had a very good discourse from a M^r Watson. One thing is needful. In the afternoon, Mr Graves gave us one of his best. Subject—Christians, as they are. I did wish that my dear children in New York, could have heard that sermon. We look forward with much pleasure to the anniversaries, which will commence next week. We have been fixing to entertain some of the clergy. Abia and I have made three large comfortables, to keep the dear creatures warm. Catherine proves one of the best cooks, or rather housekeeper's I ever saw. Very respectful and Industrious. Winthrop & Capt Godfrey's houses, adjoining the Bank—Martin—have the 2 story back buildings finished—but the front part is left until spring because it is too cold for the Mason work. Winthrops house on the hill which we now occupy, has been newly painted—piazza and fences. And the parlour and bed rooms papered, with a handsome paper. Tuesday 29th. Abia and I, rode to Upper Alton in the new Dearbon. Our man Titus drove us. I am sorry to say it is too delicately made. The roads are as good now as in summer—but when we got home we found that the wood behind which the Irons are fastened into - to hang the carriage was split half acrofs—& the two Iron's shaped like an S, bent out straight. We sent it to the smith, and had it nicely mended. I passed an hour with Mrs Manning and one with Mrs Long. When we came home we found two of the clergy. Decr 1st. President Beecher arrived and puts up with us. We have four - and I afsure you they are delightfully pleasant. Tomorrow, is the meeting of the Bible society. Winthrop had very pressing business to St Louis - and on account of the ministers being here, Benjⁿ went this morning & will return next day after tomorrow. Mrs Nicholas stoped at the landing last week on her way to Peoria. All well. Winthrop went on board & saw them but the Boat could not remain long enough for them to come to the house. 14th. As Abia wishes to add a word to you dear E, I must refer you to the Alton Observer which contains the particulars of the anniversaries. Just recd vour excellent Journal of 23d—Post marked 29th—Am happy to hear you are all recovering from the Influency. How is dear Jane. You did not mention her. I hope she is doing well and improving in every way. Give my love to her—& to dear Cis if with you. Tell her I thought of her during our anniversaries & if she had heard what it was my priviledge to hear I think she would have thought much—& highly—of Presbyterians. It was a feast to hear President Beecher converse and Pray. Love to dear Doc^r & Serena, dear Martin and all his, not forgetting Colden, dear Mary, Doc & Mrs Roberts — who are all dear to your Mother. I must tell you that Ben is going to Galena this inclement season—he says & so does Winthrop that he has business there. But I begin to suspect him. His house on the Prairie is progressing very fast and he seems as much interested in planing the inside and having every thing fixed in the best and most convenient manner—as if he was really married. He talks of riding out tomorrow to plan his Barn — wood house out houses — well — and cistern &c. and really talks of having a years wood cut and piled up, in the wood house to make it—he says, easy and convenient for the women! I know of no lady here, that he would marry—and as he has business in Galena, I think he has an eye on Mils Miles. And from the character of that lady—I really wish it may be as I suspect. He told Mr Turner the former New York state temperance agent — who now makes this house his home when in Alton — that if he was alive six months hence he would be a married man or forfet his house on the Prairie. Abia immediately spoke for it and so did M^r T. Which

¹ Benjamin Ives Gilman Jr. married in April, 1837, Mary E. Miles. They had six children, two of whom are living: Thomas Poynton Gilman, of Palisades, the eldest and unmarried; and Benjamin Ives Gilman, the youngest, who married, has three children and is living at Pearsall, Texas.

shows that they thought he would loose his house. But time only will determine. I pray he may find a woman of prayer - and one who loves the Saviour and all his children. A letter from dear Elizabeth saying they were all well. Love and a Kifs to all the chicks of both fam-Your Mother. ilies from

Dear Sister

Mother has told you all the news but I can not let this letter leave without thanking you for your kind letter to us. It was a great comfort to us in our great affliction to know that we had friends who sympathized with us. Our dear child is better off and that is more than we might have been able to think had he lived some years longer, he certainly was a very lovely child. I think I could not love another as I did him. it is best that he should be taken away from us. we all made him our Idol, we have been called early in our married life to mourn the loss of a beloved child I hope it will have the effect to prepare us better to dwell with him in heaven. Give my love to the Doct and wife. Jane & Lin. a kifs for E and the babe Remember me to your husband and believe me ever your affec Sister A.

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York.1

Lower Alton Jany 9th 1837

I have no courage my dear son, to write you again for this will be the third letter I have written to you and not a line have I received from you, since I left New York. But I think so much about you and have so many anxious thoughts about you and yours—that I will write again, hoping to receive a letter from you before I close this. I sent a long letter to your Sister yesterday, and look forward with agreeable anticipations to the post night—altho I have been disappointed for some weeks. The weather with us has been pleasant and mild. And yesterday it was so delightful that Abia and I - concluded to take a ride to Upper Alton. So we told Lancaster Weeks, who lives with us, to make ready the new

¹ MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.

Dearbone—and drive us to the upper town. We took the road up the hill—near our house—where the Jacksonville Stage comes down—because the Bridge over the creek between us and the town, is not yet finished. Of course, we rode by the grave yard, where are deposited the remains of the best of husbands—the most affectionate of sons—and my precious little Arthur. We rode up to the railing—I got out, and went to the graves, and there breathed a prayer—that I might be resigned in all things to the holy will of God. And when I left them—I felt willing they should be there until the morning of the resurrection, when I hope and trust we shall meet Jesus—and go to be forever with the Lord. O

happy thought. Blefsed Immortality.

We resumed our ride to Upper Alton—called on my friend Mrs Long—then called on Mrs Lippincott—and from their house - home - we came in twenty-five minutes. (4 miles this road) This road is very level - and hard, as in Summer. And our horses went like birds. Winthrop is so much confined at the store, that it is very seldom he can Join us in these little excursions. Beniⁿ is still at Galena—we have received three letters from him—all on business. Miss Miles is not even mentioned. So that I fear he intends to live a bachelor—notwithstanding his country seat. The inhabitants of this town, and I may say this western country—have lost one of its brightest ornaments. Mr Treadway died last night. He was the seniour editor of the Alton Telegraph. He went to Vandalia on business, took a violent cold—but thought little of it—and attended to his business when he ought to have been in his house—and after three or four days confinement in his bed—he died of Inflamation of the Lungs. He was a man devotedly pious—universally beloved—and calculated to do much good in the cause of Christ. Winthrop was in his chamber about an hour before he died—and heard him ask Mr Graves to sing the hymn beginning with "When I can read my title clear"— &c-and to his astonishment-heard him Join with them. He was perfectly sensible to the last moment when he said to them—"All is well." He conversed with his wife—she told a friend, in a very delightful

manner. So that she is wholly resigned to the will of her heavenly father. She is left with four little children and no property. She has lost both her parents—and has neither brother nor sister. But I rejoice to hear that a subscription is out for her—and it is the intention of the benevolent, that she should have the same share in the avails of the paper, which her husband had. Mr Treadway was a delightful singer—and took the lead in our choir. But I trust he is now singing the song of "Moses and the Lamb". 16th. Abia and I-have Just returned from passing the day with Mrs Long. She, and her husband enquired particularly for you, and both requested I would send you their best regards, when I wrote. Also did M^r & M^{rs} Lippincott. They have been building two churches in Upper Alton—one a Presbyterian, the other a very handsome baptist church. Since you were here, they have built a large baptist church in this town, near Martin's house. A handsome Steeple. bell & clock.

20th. I now have the great pleasure to inform you, my dear son, that I have Just received your interesting letter, of 1st inst—and rejoice that you are all so well. May the best of heaven's blefsings, attend you all. I am very much afraid that Mr P. R. Starr's Journey will prove injurious. Remember me to them all. I am glad to hear you say you are "growing old". For it proves to my mind that you was reflecting on the manner in which you spent the year that had passed. I hope and trust you will conclude it best as you are advancing to old age — to lay aside that levity of disposition, that seems to cling to you, and be more circumspect, and more watchful. You would then be a more perfect character in the eves of a fond mother. Remember me most affectionately to your worthy neighbours - Mr & Mrs W, whose happiness & prospects & love I reciprocate. Love to dear Serena — & a kils for all my sweet ones—not forgetting the dear babe. I read Mr Kirk's addrefs—and was charmed with Also have found Mr Baldwin's text—and think it very excellent for the occasion. I should like to have heard the sermon. Present my respects if you please, to them both. Benin is expected in the course of the next

week. Cap' Godfrey has been at Vandalia, two or three weeks. Winthrop is very impatient to see them both. Abia begs to Join me in tender love to you both & thanks you for your kind letter—and will write a line, at some future time. I sent you last week an Alton Observerwhich had in it "The Drunkards Grave". We all think highly of them all. Abia wishes me to ask you if you will request Eliza to purchase for her a black lace Veil handsome & large—such as she would buy for herself. I want you to send by Mr North, the report & Constitution of a female Bible Society You can send the Veil also by him—if he is there. I want before I leave here, to put into operation, a female Bible society, Abia has Just rec^d a letter from the ladies of New York—soliciting her aid in obtaining assistance from the ladies of Alton to make up the sum of 10 000 to aid the parent tract society in making up the 35,000 for foreign distribution. Love to dear Martin & Eliza—and all theirs. From your mother.

I wish you would send the pamphlet by mail.

Dear Doctor, Your P. S. is at hand & I am much obliged for your attention to Cap Godfreys wishes—I am surprised that you do not see the Temps Herald which is regularly sent to you. Your numbers of the Drunkards Grave were very gladly received & will all be published. I cannot enter Mr W's lands at present as there is no Specie to be had & I do not know of any very favorable locations at present. I did not understand your order as definite & positive but thought you wished me to enter for him if I come acrofs any great bargains which I have not yet met with—I should like to see Protestant Jesuitism. Give a great deal of love from me to Serena & Eliza & all the families. Yr aff Brother

I remitted you for your drafts. WS Gilman

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Dr. Peter G. Robbins to Mrs. Martin Hoffman, New York.

Roxbury Jan^y 21, 1837

My kind & dear friends,

I have delayed writing you for a few days, until I

could somewhat compose my thoughts & feelings, after a fatiguing & sleeples journey, & the confusion attendant on entering anew the duties & labours of family & profefsion.

I assure you, the last six weeks, with its scenes & recollections, come to my mind, like a variegated dream. Its darkest part, O how I wish was but a dream! When I entered your friendly mansion, personal apprehensions of what I was about to endure, were alleviated, & my heart cheered, by the sweet picture I there saw, of earthly comfort & domestic harmony. It even more than lightened the dread of suffering; for it carried me back to the days of my own early happy life; when an angel was my companion & my ministering spirit; when, though in the midst of poverty, I was rich.

But, my beloved Eliza, we see mournful evidences of a changing world. Prosperity & gladness shine on our path today—the angel of death & desolation overshadows it tomorrow.

Though it was in anguish of Spirit, I have reason to thank God that I was so near to you, when the stroke fell on your darling babe; to be a witness, that its fatal effect could not have been arrested by any human efforts. And in all my reflections on the sad case, no one thought or circumstance has ever occurred, to weaken my conviction of this truth; & I sincerely hope it may be of some consolation to your mind, as it has been to my own.

In the first moments of your bereavement, nature almost subdued the power of resignation, & you could not help yielding to the agony of grief; but when you had time to reflect, who called the lovely infant, smiling in its beauty, from its mother's arms, to its Saviour's bosom, could you not, almost with rapture say, "Father, thy will

be done"?

O what a mercy it is that time has a power to soothe the bitterness of grief! May you experience it, & find the comfort you need!

I beg you, my dear niece to remember me with much affection to your kind husband, who, with yourself & all

¹ Martin Hoffman's little son Martin died January 5, 1837.

the family will long be gratefully remembered by your uncle & friend P. G. Robbins

Love to Chandler & Serena & their little flock. I will write him soon.

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Jane Miller to Elizabeth Miller, Natchez, Miss.1

New York, Feby. 18, 1837

My dear Sister:

I received your very welcome letter about two weeks ago and was glad to hear you were all well. I was very sorry to hear father's health was not good and hope he is entirely recovered from his indisposition. I had a letter from Grandmama. They were all well, indeed. Uncle Benjamin had been at Galena for three or four weeks and had just returned when she wrote. We are very well here except Uncle Dr., who has had the Rheumatism but not very badly. He is a great deal better now than he has been; it is the first attack that he has had of it since his return from the Lakes. I suppose you remember Mr. Murray Hoffman. He is going to be married in March to Miss Mary Ogden. I believe it is not settled what day of the month it will be on. He went to Albany yesterday and today she received a letter from him by the express mail. I dare say she will be joked enough about it. Frank Sherwood is very well and sends a great deal of love to you. Next Saturday, if it is a pleasant day, I will go and see her. I wish you were here to go with me Dear Elizabeth. I suppose you have received Aunt Eliza's and Cecelia's letters. They are both waiting for an answer. Cecelia came down to New York in October and staved until New Years and then went to Goshen, (where they now reside), and Maria came down. Joe Battell comes here every Sunday to dine. Maria does not talk to him much and he does not say much to her, and aunt Eliza says "either Joe does not care a straw for her or else he is afraid to offer himself". Colden is as handsome as ever. He sends his love to you and tells me to

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

say that he went to E. Starr's on New Years and saw her and she looked killing. Joseph Battelle is going to Europe next month and wants Irene to go with him but her father will not consent to it. I wish you could see Lin and Emily; they are funny little creatures. Emily has a great many little tricks; one of them is, if you ask her "what Joseph Battelle does to Maria" she holds up her mouth to be kifsed Liney had the croup last night; he is often subject to it and he is always frightened, whenever he has it, but he is very well today. He is a very good little boy and tomorrow I will let him write some to you in this letter. I received a letter from Martha Jane a short time ago. The Misses Kellogg are very well and have a very large school, but Margaret and Martha are in very bad health and she says they will return to the South next spring or next fall and will pay you a visit if they possibly can. Aunt Serena's family are very well. Her little baby looks very well and is quite pretty. Its name is Ann Wotherspoon. Little Serena is a very smart little girl. She can read very well and Robert and her go to Sunday-school at Mr Eastbury Church every Sabbath. Yesterday I read in the newspaper the death of Eleanor Preist. She died of consumption aged 19. How many tunes have you learnt? I dare say you will play better than I will by the time I go home, which I do hope is not very far distant. You would laugh if you were here, to hear Uncle Martin teaze me about a little boy named James Barry. He comes to see me about once a fortnight, he is very handsome and I like him very well but not very much. Aunt Eliza says "O Miss Janey you may say what you please but he is certainly smirking around you". Have you received those boxes yet? Uncle Martin says he did not direct them to McAllister and La Pue because he had forgotten the directions when he sent them and did not know what it was until he received your last letter and that happened after he had sent them. I did not find all your letters until after the other things were sent, but I will keep them very safe for you. Tell father that in about two weeks after he has received this letter that I will write one to him and I hope he will answer it soon. Aunt

Eliza, Uncle Martin, Uncle Dr., Aunt Serena and Colden, and all other friends send their love to father, you and my little brothers. Maria desires her particular rememberance and says she will soon write to you. When you write to Cecelia, direct your letter to Goshen, Orange County, New York. Remember me to all the negroes. Mrs. Luck and Mrs. Price, also Mrs. Edey send their love to you. Mrs. Luck is going to England tomorrow. Her husband's health is so bad, I believe I told you in my last letter that Mrs. Edey had a little baby but as it is rather ugly she does not show such a fondness for it as a mother ought to show. I hope you will excuse this letter as I wrote it in the evening and I thought it looked very well but upon looking at it this morning I find I was mistaken. Love to dear father and my little brothers, and write soon and tell me all the news that you can think of.

From your affectionate Sister, Jane Miller

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman to Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop S. Gilman, Alton, Ill.

[Postmarked May 2, and written in 1837.]

I wrote you my dear children, on my arrival at Pittsburg, and gave the letter to Mr Morgan to put into the office. I had forgotten where Jane boarded, so Mr Turner took us to the United States Hotel—because it was very near the canal, where we were to embark from on Monday.

Mr Turner went in pursuit of Mr Morgan, who called, and took me with him to his Boardinghouse. He strongly invited Mr Godfrey and Mr Turner to go with us, and pafs the sabbath but they both declined. It was a long walk for me—one and a half miles—and Mr Morgan walked very fast—so that when we arrived at his Boardinghouse I was so much fatigued, that I could hardly speak. Before night, I was sick enough to go to bed. Took a violent cold, and coughed almost incefsantly all night. Sunday I could only whisper and was fearful of loosing my voice. They were both very attentive—Jane made a pitcher full of Gumarabic tea with lemmon Juce

& loaf sugar - which I lived upon all day. Mr Morgan went down and took Mr Turner & Mrs Godfrey to his church—Presbyterian—and they both called to see me after church. As the best Boat was to leave there at seven o clock we decided to take passage in her - and after tea Mr Morgan took me in a carriage to the Boat. where I met Mr Turner & Mrs Godfrey. It was very cold and it raind constantly, night and day, until yesterday morning 26th inst. We left Philadelphia at 6 o clock, and arrived in New York at one oclk, before dinner. Mr Turner was so much engaged that he put Mrs Godfrey and I, into a Hack and we stoped first at her relative's where we parted. and I persued my way to 51 Walker St—where I found Eliza well but much affected at meeting me. They were in the same situation as last year when I arrived with Abia. Painters—white washers—and scrubbers all at work, As Martin dined out I did not see him until night. We sent up to the Docrs a carriage, for Serena and the children. She is very unwell and has lost a great deal of flesh. She has not been able to walk to Eliza's, for two months.1 She rode down with the children, & rode home at nine o clock. The Docr run down before the carriage and seemed rejoiced to see me. Mary Hoffman makes the Docrs her home which is very fortunate for Serena. Eliza's children look extremely well—they have grown tall & fat, particularly Lin. Saturday 27th. I forgot to mention that Mr Graves called to see us at Philadelphia, and sit an hour. He looks well, says he has engaged to come to New York after the general assembly and addrefs the ladies of Bleeker St church at the anniversary of the society for the education of ladies for teachers. He says, these ladies are connected with the Ladies in Illinois — for the same purpose. He is to be here two or 3 days & says his wife wants to come but he has no where to put her. I told him to bring his wife to N° 51 Walker St Where they would meet a cordial reception. He promised to do so and Eliza says she would be very happy to see them. Mr Turner called vesterday and sat an hour. The Docr was here, and they talked and laugh'd at such a

¹ Dr. Chandler R. Gilman's wife and his two youngest children died during the winter of 1842.

rate that we were all much amused. He paid me twenty three dollars. I gave him at St Louis eighty dollars. He has been very attentive, particularly to little Petta. Mrs Godfrey is to remain in the city until Monday 5th June when she will go to Baltimore & from thence to North Hampton and will take her daughter to Mr Turner's where she will remain until Capt Godfrey comes. The times here are dreadful. They are distrefsed beyond description for money, lefs than 5 dollars. They will take one dol' bills, of any Bank in the Union. And they will take due bills from any respectable person. Eliza says, Mrs Lindley Hoffman told her she heard Mr Graves's addrefs, and it was the best that was delivered that day with one exception. In speaking of the extravagance of this country—and contrasting it with the west—he said. he had resided so many years in Alton & had never seen a Piano. The only music we have there, said he, is the music of Pots and Kettles!! When he returns to this city I hope he will still be popular—and make up for past vulgarism's. Mr Turner told me to tell you he should write you particularly next Monday. Do my dear children write as often as possible—always say something about Martin's businefs. He dont like to have the house rented a year without receiving rent. All send love. I hope you have moved into the house all finished. dear Mary to write very particularly. Tell dear Abia her Urn is up in the pantry waiting for W to let M know when he has goods to send & he will send it. It is plain & beautiful. Love to all friends. I send your mothers letter as soon as I arrived. From your affece mother.

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This letter was written on one of Mr. Gilman's many short business trips down the Mississippi. His second son, also named Arthur after the brother whose memory he cherished to the end of his life, was born June 22, 1837.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN to his wife, Upper Alton, Ill.

Steam Boat Irene 11 A M 26 July 1837

Dear Wife,

We got ready to leave Alton vesterday afternoon & the Olive Branch came along bound for Galena, but as she is rather slow & her accommodations very small, we concluded to go on board the Selma then at Alton & about starting for St Louis, with the promise of the Captain that if we met the Irene he would put us on board. We did not meet her, but after partaking of a first rate supper on the Selma we reached St Louis about Dark & went down to the Irene & found she would not leave till this morning. There are but few passangers & her accommodations are very fine, being all Staterooms - Cap G & I have a good Stateroom far back in the boat & we are now plowing up stream at rate of about 6 miles per hour & having a light load we expect to reach Galena Saturday evening, providence permitting. would be very glad if instead of taking this business tour you & our little one was with me & I had only to go to Galena as you would find it comfortable notwithstanding the hot weather. I want you to be very careful & saving of your dear self & hope I may be spared to meet you & our darling child again in a very few weeks in health. I have not written lately to maa & enclose a sheet which I want you to fill with comforting news & send it off as early as you can this week, also please say to Benjⁿ I want him to send her a 50 dollar bill by mail, as she must be nearly out of money. Perhaps he will give it to you to enclose in your letter. I received another very interesting letter from Mr Corey yesterday & his success has been good at Perry, Griggsville & several other places & I intend to leave a line for him urging him to take another tour very soon again. I wrote a page yesterday to Mr Turner & sent your love to him & urged him to come back early, told him I was afraid I was turning Abolitionist Cap Godfrey & I had a long talk again last night about it & his candour is so great that I believe firmly

he cannot resist the proper conclusions if he reads &

thinks on the subject.

I want you to be sure to write to Elizth as early as you can, Kindnefs & love to her demand it from us. I was within hearing this morning of two very gentlemanly looking men who were treating for the Sale of a very fine negro girl. The purchaser said he wished to take her to texas; the seller recommended her in the highest terms as very superior & said if not sold soon she was to be sold at Auction. The purchaser asked when he could see her &c &c & on finding out that she was married, appeared to think it would not do to take her away from her husband—Upon which the seller said that she had been married but a few months & those short attachments were very easily broken—that it was not like seperating man & wife after they had been married for years & had a family. Astonishing that man should be so blinded as to see no guilt in this! I think your father might make a good paragraph in the Observer on this practical exposition of the sin of Slavery.

I hope to hear from you at Peoria & hope to write frequently With much love to all Your attached husband

W S Gilman

P.S

I shall not probably have time to write to maa, but beg of you by no means to fail to write her an encouraging letter this week with 50\$ enclosed & give my warmest love to her & all.

This is the anniversary of my dear Brother Arthurs death! You better put yr letter in P. O. at Lower Alton.

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Mrs. Martin Hoffman to Elizabeth H. Miller, Natchez, Miss.²

New York, Aug 8, 1837

It has now become my painful duty my very dear Elizabeth to convey to you most mournful intelligence. May God support you under it and sanctify the affliction

¹ The Observer was Rev. Elijah Lovejoy's Abolitionist newspaper.

² MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.





JANE MILLER
From an ambrotype owned by Mrs.
Elliman (Mary Gilman), of Staten
Island, N. Y., granddaughter of Dr.
Chandler R. Gilman.

to us all. In his wisdom He has seen fit to remove from us our darling Jane, your precious sister. This will be to you all a most heartrending stroke, but O try to be submifsive; try to say, "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth to him best" I trust she has joined the sainted spirit of her mother in a better world and is now forever blessed and freed from sin and sorrow.

But Oh what an admonition to us all; so young, so bright and blooming; cut down as it were in an hour. This sorrowful event took place in Stratford last Friday eveg. 4th of August. My dear mother has scarcely been able to leave her room since her arrival from Alton, being confined with severe Rheumatism. The weather was very warm and it was thought best to try Stratford air for a few weeks. Dear Jane anticipated the visit with great delight and appeared to enjoy herself well for a few days. On Sunday week she attended church but on the return complained of not feeling well; nausia and pain in the stomach; said she had eaten a little unripe fruit and thought that produced it. I gave her a dose of Calcined Magnesia which she did not retain and not being better, that afternoon we sent for Dr. Goulding. He gave her a pill to quiet the pain and a dose of calomel. All day Monday, pills followed by Senna tea in order to produce a movement of the bowels which seemed almost impossible. In the night her medicine operated freely and Tuesday she seemed better, sat up a short time but her stomach continued in a very irritable state; did not incline to take anything but water. Wednesday and Thursday a great deal of pain in the bowels and very sick stomach. Her medicines did not produce a good effect and her pulse became more feeble, still the Doctor did not apprehend any danger. Her disease was bilious fever but on Friday morning it changed to Typhus. Dr. called and found a great change for the worse; hands and arms became very cold. All day we applied mustard plasters and rubbed with hot brandy but heat could not be produced. She said very little but at times appeared to be engaged in prayer, which I doubt not God in mercy heard and answered. About eight o'clock in the evening

¹ Jane Miller must have been about sixteen at the time of her death.

we put her in a warm bath which seemed very grateful to her. Soon after she became a little flighty and continued to decline until about 11, when her dear spirit took its departure, I trust and believe to regions of hap-

piness.

My precious Elizabeth, this will be a sore trial to you and to your dear Father, do not sink under it but look for support to that God who has said "call upon me in the day of trouble". Your dear Grandmother is greatly afflicted; she is not able to leave her bed except for a short time and suffers extreme pain. I will write you soon again In the meantime may God support and bless you all.

With kindest love to your father and brothers, believe

me

Your ever affectionate Aunt,

Eliza

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Benj. Ives Gilman to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York.1

Alton Aug 25th, 1837

Dear Doctor:

We have received your two letters of the 5th and 10th instant giving us the distressing and unexpected intelligence of the death of our dear niece, Jane Miller. I hope this affliction may be improved by all her surviving Relatives. It brings home to us the extreme uncertainty of life and the solemn fact that a few hours will slide us all into the silent grave. Beyond that is the Christian's hope. May we all be familiarized with this change by an every-day reflection and when we wake up in eternity, find the scenes of our daily contemplations while on earth. Our dear mother [...] is supported by a faith in the Great Ruler of the universe and composes herself in the belief that all is right.

It would afford me sincere pleasure to go to New York if I was sure Ma'a could return with us this Fall. From your letter I infer that she cannot safely attempt the journey. If we find from your letters that the probabil-

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

ity is it would be safe for Ma'a to undertake the journey we may make a flying visit this Fall, otherwise early in the spring. If you will agree that I may take "tute" home with me, and keep her till she is her own woman, I will start for New York at a day's notice. Give my love to Ma'a, Serena and children, Eliza, Martin &c &c, and accept the best wishes of your affectionate brother, B. I. Gilman

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Mrs. Benj. Ives Gilman died at the home of her sonin-law, Martin Hoffman, on Aug. 24, 1837, aged sixtynine. This letter was written the next day.

WINTHROP S. GILMAN TO MRS. BENJ. IVES GILMAN, New York.¹

Alton, Aug. 25th, 1837

Dear Mother:

I should have written you sometime since but have been absent at Galena, in Wisconsin Territory and on Pekatonica and Rock rivers in our State, from which town Capt. Godfrey and myself only returned a few days since. We were all very much surprised and grieved to hear of the death of dear Jane but hope that you have been supported under the severe trial by grace from God. If we can, dear Mother, meet at last at rest safely in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father how happy we shall be May we have this hope continually before us and day by day live as strangers & pilgrims here. We all feel extremely solicitous about your health and most sincerely pray it may be restored sufficiently for you to come again to Alton. Benjamin cannot well leave at present and as Mr. Wade expects to start in a day or two to return with his wife in a few weeks, we have conversed with him and he will call on you and if you are able, I do beg of you to come out with them. You could hardly have a better opportunity, unless with one of your children, and as Mrs. Wade was always a very particular friend and favorite of yours, I hope you will come with her.

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

We had a disgraceful mob here a week or so since and the observer prefs was entirely destroyed — no lives lost. The mob was caused by the strong ground taken on the subject of Abolition by the paper. The Temperance Cause goes on well and it is very interesting to see its progrefs in our new and flourishing state. Benjamin is very pleasantly situated at his house on the prairie and I think with almost every body else that it is the handsomest house in the state! Mary makes him, I think, a first rate wife and I believe they are very happy together. I took my wife and child there to spend the night a few days since and can communicate to you what you will rejoice to hear; that he does not neglect family worship and attends to it himself. Abia is very desirous you should come out and I hope sincerely that you will if practicable. Mr. Carey, our Tempe Agent has lately got married to a Miss Forte (school teacher) at Griggsville. school teachers go off pretty rapidly in Illinois.

We shall look for Mr. Turner here in two or three weeks and I long to have him at work again. I shall send

some money for you by Mr. Wade.

My wife desires her kindest love to you and all our dear relatives. I should be very glad to have Eliza and Martin & Serena with the young ones (the Dr. I suppose is out of the question) pay us a visit. Money is more scarce here than I think I ever knew it before, in proportion to the business done. We are closing up a great part of our business. With great affection I remain in haste, dear mother,

Your affectionate son,

W. S. Gilman.

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Mrs. Martin Hoffman to Elizabeth H. Miller, Natchez, Miss.¹

New York, Sept. 18, 1837

Dear, dear Elizabeth, what shall I say to you, what can I say? There is nothing which can comfort both your heart and mine, in this hour of deep affliction but this

¹ MS. loaned by Mrs. Jane (Coe) Brant, Rolla, Mo.

thought "the Lord reigneth"—the bible lays a solid ground of comfort when it afsures us that all things are under the government of God. Yes, not a sparrow falls to the ground without his notice. He is our compassionate Father, infinitely wise and just and kind. He it is that has removed from us a parent and a sister—let us be still and remember that he does not willingly afflict or grieve his children and that there must have been a needs-

be for our present sufferings.

I presume you have received the Drs letter communicating intelligence of our last bereavement—since then you have been much in my thoughts and I have wished to write you but felt unable to take up my pen. After the death of my precious mother I was so miserable and debilitated in health that Mr. Hoffman insisted upon my leaving town and accordingly he took the children and myself to stay a few days with Aunt Battell. I trust I was benefited by the jaunt and feel grateful to that dear family for their kindness and attention. We returned on Wednesday last—my heart was saddened as we approached our house by the thought that no precious mother would be there to welcome us home. No dear Jane to look upon us with bright and happy face, but I was enabled to subdue these feelings, to check this despondency and to cherish in their place emotions of gratitude and thanksgiving. I know and feel assured that God has afflicted me in faithfulness. It has ever been so and I can remember many events in my past life which at the time were painful indeed and appeared dark and mysterious, but I can now look back upon them as to the very brightest manifestations of God's love and mercy.

I have written you twice lately and hope you have received my letters. Dear Elizabeth, I feel more than ever anxious to see you, to have you with me, if only for a short time. Will you not come? Can you not? the journey would be of service to you and under existing circumstances surely your father would not object. We ought to be together for we are all the female part of the family left with the exception of Jane Morgan; there is none other.

My children are well and Lin speaks often of Cousin Lizzie; would that he could see her.

With kindest love to your father and brother, believe

me

Your attached Aunt Eliza.

Do write us often, and say you can come and see me in my affliction.

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Mrs. Joseph Battell to Dr. C. R. Gilman, New York, and Irene Battell to the same.²

Norfolk August 21-1837 3

My Dear Nephew

The last word clouds my vision for it tells me the band that bound us is severed—and of late I have felt a lone-liness that I never realized before. From the venerable Family at Brandford the two sons had each two daughters—the daughters none. Your mother & I long since lost our sister, and our parents,—and we were sincerely attached. O how I loved Hannah. I loved her face, her voice, her spirit—and I love her now, and the place where she is—and the employment she is engaged in. Her people were my people, and her God my God.

Dear doctor you write so feelingly about Irene I must thank you I am only advisory in the business. It would gratify me to have her with you & I think it would be of service to wait on you professionally and have proposed to her to go. But she thinks the medicin she is using will do her good (If I could make the druggists figures I

- ¹ Mrs. Martin Hoffman had seven children, only three of whom lived to marry. These were Lindley Murray Hoffman, born December 10, 1832, married in 1855, Minnie (Graham) Ring, had four children and died April 19, 1899; Emily Hoffman, born December 28, 1834, married in 1856, John H. Stevens, had nine children and died July 1, 1918; and Arthur Gilman Hoffman, born February 12, 1838, married in 1859, Katherine C. Stewart, had five children and died October 20, 1900. Mrs. Martin Hoffman died October 22, 1874, and her husband died in 1857.
 - ² MS. loaned by W. Stewart Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa.
- 3 It is evident that Mrs. Battell misdated her letter, which was written on the same sheet as her daughter's. They are postmarked September 22.

would put down the ingredients for you to judge) She seems in good spirits and in better health than in the summer. And she feels, what I do not, that she could hardly be contented at this time abroad. I can assure my dear cousin Serena that the girls do not want urging to New York. When they think they can well go they are ready to step aboard. Urania has gained in health & begins to be quite like herself. Sarah has done as well so far as anyone can ever expect to do—and the baby is well and quiet as a puss.

I just received a letter from Eliza, she is an own dear child I shall write her soon. With love to each & all of you. Your ever affee aunt Sarah Battell

Dear Doctor— September 22^d 1837.

I do not know that I have ever been more gratified than by your kind, very kind letter. It is sweet to know at any time that we are not forgotten—to know we are loved, is the most precious, soothing, heavenly, assurance—to hear any one express so much interest—in me—my health and happiness, produces such a feeling of happy gratitude that I really believe I am, as I feel, all the better for it—this is but one of your many kindnesses no one of which is forgotten. I shall never forget, as I shall never cease to love my kind considerate cousin Doctor — but really, I am not sick. I know I am not "bright and beautiful"—I am not young—they seem to forget I am almost twenty six years old, when all American girls begin to look "pale and thin," I have a slight cough, not at all painful, only a little troublesome. I feel as well as I ever did-know no fatigue. I have not a doubt but that I shall be able to say in a very few weeks I am as well as ever in my life. You say I would better come to New York. I should enjoy it "to the life," as I have always, when I have been one of your happy circle, but I should not, I think, be justified in leaving home now. I seem to be peculiarly needed — My sisters sick — &c &c.

I cannot say to you how much I am wanted now after a summer's absence—if I could really believe myself sick, I think I could quiet my conscience, and go—as it is, I cannot—and let me tell you here, I am not so "forgetful of self" as you represent. I take better care of myself than I do of other people, and do not fear the least injury from the exertion and care, I must of course make and feel. My dear Mother has not been well at all since Eliza was here—indeed she has hardly left her room—today for the first time she has gone to see her grandchild. Papa and herself are both spending the night with her. I am in sole charge—with a house full of company, and at this hour, twelve oclock at night, waiting for the "darkies" to come from their "training spree." Mother is gaining I think—but I am urging her to make her visit to Elisa and yourself now (?) as being the best thing she can do for her health, and I hope she will, when Sarah is a little better.

What a withdrawal, dear doctor, of the general light which fell on your daily path!—and what a consolation too — to see her turn away with such a free and willing spirit from all that was precious to her here—to feel that full assurance that the bright hopes of the Religion she adorned, illumined the dark shadows of the grave. and converted them indeed into the pillar of fire to guide her into the land of promise, the heaven of everlasting blessedness and joy. Surely we ought not to mourn for those who perish thus—death is to them but the gentle wafting to immortal life and joy -- it is for the living we should mourn - for those who will miss her bright and cheerful presence—her strong and devoted love—the assurance of her blessedness—the hope of an inseperable union beyond the grave, must be your consolation and support.

With my best love to Eliza—to your wife, and all the

young ones - I am sincerely and gratefully

Your affectionate cousin

Irene Battell

Maria wishes to inform her merry cousin Doctor that he may have done laughing as soon as he pleases as she has entirely recovered. But I must think notwithstanding the combined wisdom of Mother, Sarah and the Doctor himself, that the fever and ague, hath something more





WINTHROP SARGENT GILMAN AND HIS ELDEST DAUGHTER, HELLIN

From an ambrotype taken in New Orleans, La., in 1848, owned by his grandson, Winthrop S. G. Noyes, of St. Paul, Minn.

of death than sport in it, at least it is a fitful sort of merriment that I feel satisfied to leave to the enjoyment of those who are capable of relishing such fun. MH.¹

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One letter more will complete this collection, although the brothers and sisters were separated until 1850, when Winthrop S. Gilman took his little family to New York to make a home there. But the death of Mrs. Benj. Ives GILMAN is an appropriate stopping-place, because the passing of her generation marks the end of the old times and the arrival of modern life. The letter from Mr. GIL-MAN to his wife of July 26, 1837, has prepared us for the active part he took in one of the most exciting episodes of pre-war days in Illinois, the description of which will close this volume. Written as this letter was, the morning after the Alton Riot, it is valuable testimony in reference to an event that brought forth Wendell Phillips' maiden speech in Faneuil Hall, Boston. "We have seen that Mr. GILMAN was deeply impressed by the evils of slavery and those who knew him are not surprised that, as usual, he did what he thought was right without regard to the consequences.

His father-in-law, Rev. Thomas Lippincott, was very influential during the troubled years of 1822-1824 when the anti-slavery party was struggling to prevent Illinois from being made a slave state. As we see by Mr. Gilman's letter, Mr. Lippincott's facile pen was useful in preparing anti-slavery pamphlets and newspaper articles, the latter appearing in Rev. Elijah Lovejoy's paper, the Observer. Mr. Lovejoy's first printing-press had been destroyed by an Alton mob and a new one was now coming up the river. The following letter describes

¹ Probably Maria Colden Hoffman.

the riot that ensued and the murder of Rev. Mr. Lovejoy. Mr. Gilman never identified himself with the Abolitionist party but continued a strong opponent of slavery and an upholder of the Union. He entered into this conflict for the freedom of the press with all his usual energy and was afterward put on trial "for the crime of riot" with the gentlemen who were with him in his warehouse. The little book, printed in 1838, Alton Trials, written from the notes of William S. Lincoln, a lawyer present in the court-room, is a prized possession of Mr. Gilman's descendants.

Mr. Gilman was acquitted and a nolle prosequi was entered against the rest of the defending party. Some of the attacking mob were tried during the same term of the court for "entering the storehouse of Benjamin Godfrey and Winthrop S. Gilman and breaking up and destroying one printing press," not for the crime of killing Rev. Mr. Lovejoy. The rioters were also acquitted by the Alton jurors, who seem to have been "neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring."

Winthrop S. Gilman to Dr. Chandler R. Gilman, New York.

Alton 8 Novem. 1837.

Dear Doctor,

Yours of—ulto with the prison sketch is at hand & will appear in the November number of the Herald. I have but a few moments to spare to write to give you early information of the mob of last night of which I presume you will hear an early account. Great excitement has prevailed here against abolition—Mr Lovejoy had a press arrived night before last, & I consented to have it stored in our warehouse, there being about 30 of our citizens well armed in the building to defend it.

Thro' yesterday we did not hear much noise & last night about 14 citizens of whom I was one remained in the building with plenty of fire arms, which under the authority of the Mayor were to be used in defending the property. It was a bright moonlight night & at about 10 o'clock an armed mob of some 30 desperadoes assembled in front & demanded the Press. I assured them that we would not deliver it & that we had been told by the Mayor to protect our property & we would do it with our lives. They then threw stones in the windows & broke the 2d story ones in in a few minutes & they fired upon us at the doors—our men then fired & killed one of their number—they then were more quiet for a few minutes. but returned again having ladders lashed together & materials prepared to set the Warehouse on fire at the roof. Occasional guns were fired & dreadful cursings & threats on their part. They ran up the ladder & we found the only way to prevent them was to come out of the building & fire. We did so & slightly wounded two or three of them, but they had the advantage by this time of some 40 or 50 in numbers & I learn they (a number of them) were sent up from St Louis which I presume true. We again went out on their renewed attempt at the roof. but they had fearful advantages having stationed men behind the adjoining building & at a pile of boards on the landing. Mr. Lovejov & Mr. Weller were then shot by the mob. Mr. Lovejoy lived only to reach our Compting room & expired on the floor in a few minutes. Mr Weller was shot in the leg about the knee joint—not dangerous. Our men retired into the building & altho we had been about 11/2 or 2 Hours in Conflict & the Church Bells ringing—so numerous were the mob & its friends that the Mayor & Constable could not do any thing & the citizens could not be rallied in sufficient force to offer any chance of success. We then called to them that Mr. Lovejoy was dead & we wished to end the affray on some

I John M. Krum, the mayor, testified at the trial that he had read and explained the law to Mr. GILMAN on "the rights of citizens to defend their property," but that he did not consider that he was advising him as mayor. Later Mr. GILMAN cross-examined Mr. Krum and asked "Did you not say that if the press was attacked, you should first order the mob to desist and that if they persisted, you should then order us to fire?" and the mayor answered "I believe I did." Mr. GILMAN then asked, "Did you not at this time consider you appeared there as mayor?" and the mayor replied "I did."

terms. They replied with dreadful curses that our lives should all be forfeited in the building. With the roof of our warehouse already on fire, it was folly to resist longer, as it would only be at the almost certain sacrifice of our lives & the complete destruction of some 20 or 30,000 of property by fire. Mr. H. T. West who was outside of the building acquainted with many of the mob acted nobly. Came to our lower door & told us to escape down the river (that the mob would not fire on us when leaving). All of our men but two or three who staid by the wounded (two wounded in number, Mr Roff & Weller, both in the leg) ran on the river bank without arms & escaped, notwithstanding the heartless creatures fired at us as we ran. Mr. Long was one of our Company. I had taken my wife to Upper Alton expecting some trouble & after sleeping till daylight in the house of a friend here I walked up there & returned immediately after break-The mob entered the building threw out & destroved the press, but did not injure (as I knew of) any of our property, not even the guns which we left. Mr West ascended the ladder & put out the fire on the roof which had not kindled much. If we had staid in a short time longer, the whole property must have been destroved as the mob were determined to blow up the house by powder if necessary. To day (their object being accomplished) all is as quiet as could be expected & we anticipate no further trouble. Thus has ended our attempt to sustain law, which we felt it a solemn duty to do & which we engaged in with prayer. The result is we cannot do it—resistance is useless & we must yield for the present to the powers that be.

I do not apprehend further serious disturbance. My wife is quite well & our baby grows finely. Dont fail to send the *Prison Sketches* monthly. They are very much

admired by Mr Corey & our Exct. Com.

With kind & affectionate remembrances to Eliza I remain, your attached brother W. S. Gilman.

Mr. Lovejoy had three buck shot or small balls in the

breast.

P. S. Abia sends a great deal of love to Serena & Eliza. Benjamin left about 8 days since for Galena &

will not probably be back for a week. I cannot send you any money immediately but will endeavor to do so ere long. I expect to send you the *Alton Telegraph* giving acc of our Public Meeting & by my protest you will see I was in a very small minority. Did I do right? WSG.

Mr. Gilman, as his letters show, was an idealist—a man who caught the beauty of undying truths and never once failed, in the course of a long life, to stand firmly by the principles he had once accepted. His children remember, with enthusiastic love, the many times in later life when their father bore unshrinkingly the reproach and persecution which followed his outspoken adherence to an unpopular cause. His work for temperence has been noticed before. At no other time in his life was he put to such a test as in this excitement at Alton, when he was but twenty-nine years old. It is not necessary to remind my readers of the bitter antagonisms created by slavery in the border states before the war of 1861 and we have had lately an illuminating vision of the lengths to which mob hatred of the Negro will go in the East St. Louis riots of 1917. It was not only that Mr. GILMAN was jeopardizing his property, but his home and his little family were also in danger.

Although this first outbreak of pro-slavery violence has been forgotten among the greater events of the after years, the importance that Mr. Gilman and his friends attached to the protection of Mr. Lovejoy has been confirmed by the highest authority. John Quincy Adams, in the introduction to the *Memoir of Rev. Elijah Lovejoy*, used these words: "That an American citizen, in a state whose constitution repudiates all slavery, should die a martyr in defence of the freedom of the press is a phenomenon in the history of the Union. It forms an era in the progress of mankind towards universal emancipation. . . He [Rev. Mr. Lovejoy] was the first Amer-

ican martyr to the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave."

And in a letter of March 2, 1857, to Rev. James Lemen, Abraham Lincoln wrote: "I will add a few words more as to Elijah Lovejoy's case. His letters among your old family notes were of more interest to me than even those of Thomas Jefferson written to your father. . . Lovejoy's tragic death for freedom in every sense marked his sad ending as the most important single event that happened in the new world. . . The madness and pitiless determination with which the mob steadily pursued Lovejoy to his doom mark it as one of the most unreasoning and unreasonable in all time, except that which doomed the Saviour to the cross."

¹ Uncollected letters of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Gilbert A. Tracy, 1917.

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